

James Bilancia  
Brewer  
LD 2283

Dear Judiciary Committee Members,

I am an Army veteran, a former military and civilian police officer, a current middle school educator, a father, and a husband. I am also a longtime multiple gun owner, hunter, and sport shooter. And I support LD 2283 - An Act to Enact the Crisis Intervention Order Act to Protect the Safety of the Public and urge you to support it as well. Let's please be very clear. Gun safety laws such as this will not stop safe, legal, responsible gun owners like me from owning and using weapons for the safe, legal, responsible purposes for which I own my guns. There are too many extremists out there who oppose virtually ANY efforts to improve gun safety laws. The extreme "pro gun" arguments are endless red herrings. For example, for about ten years from the 1990's into the early 2000's we had a military assault rifle ban that did not stop one single person from hunting or responsibly owning weapons for self-protection, hunting, and sport shooting. Not a single one. Yes, the tragedy in Lewiston may have been prevented if the military and law enforcement had used current laws and policies to better intervene with the perpetrator. Still, there are too many acts of gun violence, which have now come to Maine in a big way, to allow us to once again do nothing as if the kind of slaughter we have seen time and again all over the country and in Lewiston last fall is the price we must pay for "freedom". Enough is enough! We must ACT with several new laws which continue to respect the rights of safe, legal, responsible gun owners like me while at the same time doing more to reduce the lethality of firearms and to keep guns away from dangerous people who should not have them. The bill in question DOES allow for due process while also giving families and authorities more tools to intervene more quickly in times of crisis. In so many of these instances, time is of the essence to prevent serious tragedies. It is close family members who know when a person most likely poses an imminent danger to him or herself and/or others. 21 states, both "red" and "blue" states, have such laws and they have been used to prevent serious tragedies in many documented cases. There are provisions here to prevent the abuse of the law, and the odds of any such abuse are very remote in the first place. Enough of these red herrings! I urge you to act and to please support LD 2283 - An Act to Enact the Crisis Intervention Order Act to Protect the Safety of the Public with an OUGHT TO PASS vote. It will not stop me from owning my guns, hunting with my guns, or target shooting with my guns because I am a safe, legal, responsible gun owner. Thank you.