

To the Members of the Judiciary Committee:

This is a brief note in support of LD 2283, aka the ERPO or red flag bill.

Maine has the yellow flag law in place now, but it clearly is not effective enough. The red flag process for temporarily removing weapons from an unstable person does work, as has been demonstrated by the over twenty states where it is now in use.

There has been a great focus on the actions and decisions of the Sagadahoc sheriff's office, with many thinking that they were the missing link in how Robert Card could have been stopped before he rampaged in Lewiston.

I personally know Sheriff Joel Merry and have for many years, and can vouch that he is a thoughtful, caring, intelligent and honorable person, with excellent judgement. If someone of Sheriff Merry's ability and judgement was unable to prevent this tragedy, I doubt any other person would have done better with only the yellow flag process available.

Please vote in favor of LD 2283. The safety of all of us citizens of Maine depend on this. Thank you.

Sincerely,  
Charles Durfee (Woolwich)

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LD 2283

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