Jennifer Holst-Smith Gorham LD 2283 Jennifer Smith/Gorham LD2283 on Red Flag Laws

Joint Standing Committee on Judiciary.

My husband and I moved with our family from tyrannical NJ years ago to Maine, you know, the way life should be. Now we find ourselves right back in that tyrannical setting, a government not working for the people. "Not" the way life should be.

I am appalled to be writing here again, fighting for our rights as per the constitution of the United States of America and Maine. You took an oath to protect these rights and to work for the citizens of this state. You should be ashamed of yourselves knowing that what you are doing is going against what you were sworn in to do.

As I was writing this, I came up with so many scenarios for why this will not work, and you have heard many already. This bill is NOT making Mainers safe. It is endangering them. Red flag laws are in place around this country and are not helping make these places any safer. In addition, you are taking away the rights of law-abiding citizens without due process. What happened to innocent until proven guilty?

This state has been one of the top two safest states in the U.S. for many years and with good reason...our laws have worked. The yellow flag laws in place should have worked with regard to the Lewiston shooting. It is not the law that failed, but the system that failed to follow the yellow flag law process. Putting a red flag law in place won't help, and in fact it will make things worse. How can people trust government if they are taking away rights of law-abiding citizens? You will be undermining everything this great country and state stood for.

Ultimately, this is not just about this bill you are looking to pass. This is about our rights and your duty to protect them.

This state's representatives need to do just that...represent the citizens and protect their rights per the Maine Constitution and Constitution of the United States of America.

I strongly oppose bill LD2283. Red Flags do not belong here.