



Testimony on April 10, 2024 at the Judiciary Committee's Public Hearing on LD 2283, An Act to Enact the Crisis Intervention Order Act to Protect the Safety of the Public

Senator Carney and Representative Matt Moonen and Members of the Committee:

April 9, 2024

My name is the Kathy Woodside, a resident of Bar Harbor and a lay leader of the Bar Harbor Congregational Church United Church of Christ. I am offering testimony on behalf of the Maine Conference of the United Church of Christ (UCC) and as a member of its Social Action Committee to offer written testimony in support of LD 2283.

Recently, I along with other members of the Maine Conference UCC's Social Action Committee offered testimony on LD 2086, An Act to Amend the Law Governing the Disposition of Forfeited Firearms LD2224, An Act to Strengthen Public Safety by Improving Maine's Firearm Laws and Mental Health System; and LD2238, An Act to Address Gun Violence in Maine by Requiring a Waiting Period for Certain Firearm Purchases. This is not the first time the Maine Conference has taken a stand on Gun Safety. In 2013 the delegates at the Annual Meeting of the Maine Conference UCC passed a resolution to support laws that:

- (1) Ban the sale and possession of high-capacity rapid-fire weapons by individuals,
- (2) Ban the sale and possession of large ammunition magazines by individuals, and
- (3) Require universal background checks and safety courses for all sales of guns, including sales at gun shows and between private individuals

Yet, since that time little progress has been made to ensure the people in our state are safe from the threat of gun violence. LD 2283 is another tool that will help us become a safer state.

The mass shooting event in Lewiston on October 25, 2023 that took the lives of eighteen people and injured many others put Maine on the map as being another state subjected to gun violence. Our state cannot wait any longer to take action. The Maine Conference United Church of Christ and the Social Action Committee support LD 2283 An Act to Enact the Crisis Intervention Order Act to Protect the Safety of the Public. We do not want other families and communities have to deal with the grief and anguish caused by the Lewiston mass shooting. You, as our legislators have an obligation to the people of Maine to do everything in your power to prevent a repeat of the tragedy in Lewiston. You also have an opportunity to raise the bar on gun safety measures by setting a higher standard of care and protection for the people throughout our state.

The issues around gun safety are complex, which constitutes the need for a multi-faceted approach. LD 2283 combined with LD 2086, LD 2224 and LD 2238 will move us in the direction we should want to be...the safest state in these United States of America.

Submitted by,

Kathy Woodside

Maine Conference United Church of Christ

Social Action Committee Member

Bar Harbor Resident

Member of the Bar Harbor Congregational Church UCC