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LD 2283

Members of the Judiciary Committee,

I greatly appreciate you providing this extra session for testimony and the serious consideration that you have given to all the proposed gun safety legislation. Your time and patience is commendable. You have heard a lot of testimony.

I urge you to support the true Extreme Risk Protection Order.

ERPO laws are based on evidence and modelled after other successful protection orders, such as those for domestic violence.

Extreme Risk Protection Orders are valuable tools because they are temporary, civil not criminal laws, and most importantly, are based on behavior not mental illness.

ERPO laws are based on research that indicates that the best predictor of violent behavior is a history of violent behavior combined with credible threats of violence.

ERPO laws are based on this, not on a mental health diagnosis. Violence happens on a trajectory and ERPO laws intervene early in this trajectory to prevent the violence.

My son in law, a retired Navy submariner, talks about sailors self-surrendering weapons when they were going through uneasy times. They recognize the dangers that weapons can pose.

The data that has been collected from states that have extreme risk protection orders is very positive. Early evaluation of ERPO laws indicate that for every 10-20 ERPOs ordered, 1 suicide is prevented.

ERPO will not eliminate all gun violence in Maine but it is one legal element in a toolkit of policies that will save lives.

I urge your support for LD 2283, the True Extreme Risk Protection Order.

Susan Kistenmacher
Farmingdale, ME

sources:

ERPO.org

<https://publichealth.jhu.edu/center-for-gun-violence-solutions/solutions/extreme-risk-protection-orders-or-red-flag-laws>

(this testimony was submitted in person on April 9)