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LD 208

Senator Carney, Representative Kuhn and Members of the Committee,
I am writing in opposition to LD 208 and LD 1230, both bills to eliminate the 72-hour Waiting Period on Firearms Purchases. You know all the arguments for waiting periods. You heard them last year and you passed this bill out of committee where the legislature voted in favor and the governor allowed it to become law.

As you heard last year, waiting periods are a safety measure.

This immediate purchase and acquisition of a gun allows people to act on temporary emotions and impulses which increase the risk of both suicide and homicide.

Suicide attempts are often impulsive, episodes that involve little planning. Studies suggest that most suicide survivors contemplated their actions for only a brief period of time—often less than 24 hours—before making a suicide attempt.

Similarly, studies suggest that some of the factors that lead to violence against others, such as anger and rage, can be short-lived.

Waiting period laws create a buffer and allow for a cooling down period. They give time for friends and family to notice a person is in trouble and step in to help them out.

Waiting period Laws can reduce both suicide and homicide while preserving Maine's strong tradition of responsible gun ownership and Second Amendment rights.

The argument against a waiting period is of course, that it is an inconvenience for law abiding citizens practicing their second amendment rights. And yes, it is an inconvenience, but it may save a life. And aren't all our rights attached to responsibilities and inconveniences?

Currently Maine has some of the laxest gun safety laws in the nation but we can change that.

Now is the time to show leadership, wisdom and unite the voices of the majority of Mainers who demand change.

Please oppose LD 208 and 1230.

Thank you.