

Janice Vance
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LD 1174

Dear Sen Carney, Rep Kuhn, and members of the committee, I am Janice Vance and I live in Kennebunk. This bill in its current form is missing much information, and I have questions I hope you will discuss. LD 1174 specifies that only veterans and first responders to be eligible. I assume – but am not sure – that the intent is to address the high gun suicide rate in these groups. There are other professions that experience a high suicide rate, including doctors, veterinarians, and oddly enough, dentists. Why not expand the bill to include these professions, or, simply allow ANY gun owner this opportunity? Also, why is the death of the gun owner the only situation specified for someone else to take possession of the firearm? What happens if the gun owner is incarcerated, placed in an institutional setting, or leaves the state? This bill assumes that gun owners will proactively ask for protection, which I think is unlikely in many cases, because people in crisis are typically unable to advocate for themselves, including having the clarity to ask for removal of firearms. In my opinion, it is much more effective to allow family members, law enforcement or anyone who knows a troubled person well, to ask the courts to temporarily remove that person's weapons until help can be sought.