

Claudia Hatch
Woolwich, ME 04579, USA
LD 208

I am opposed to repealing the 72 Hour Waiting Period. This safety measure helps to decrease the number of suicides in the States that have the waiting period in place. I have worked in the field of mental health and know the tragedy of suicide. Research has shown that for 70% of those considering suicide experience the time from wanting to commit suicide to not wanting to commit suicide to be one hour. When protections are in place to slow down the access to lethal weapons, lives are saved. Ninety percent of firearm deaths are from suicide. It is often argued that more attention needs to be paid to people's mental health rather than gun restrictions. Having a 72 Hour Waiting Period is paying attention to people's mental health and the safety of all people.