

Amanda Scarpone
Poland
LD 208

Amanda Scarpone
Poland, Maine
April 15, 2025

To Members of the Judiciary Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to address the Committee. My name is Amanda Scarpone, I am a resident of Poland, Maine, and I am a public health professional who works in the non-profit and philanthropy field. I am also a member of the Maine Public Health Association.

I am writing to you today in opposition to LD 208, An Act to Eliminate the 72-hour waiting period on firearm purchases. As a public health professional, I believe in the need for gun safety measures to protect us all. Maine has a strong culture of responsible gun ownership, but this does not free us from the risk and devastation of gun violence. This was unfortunately made clear in the tragic mass shooting in Lewiston, ME—a tragedy that has irrevocably altered many lives and our community as a whole.

There are ways that we can decrease the risk of gun violence in Maine, as well as decrease gun deaths by suicide. A clear method is through waiting periods, which our current legislation provides. A waiting period drastically decreases the chance of an impulsive act of gun violence, such as homicide and death by suicide. When someone can purchase a firearm impulsively and immediately, they may be acting on temporary emotions, and if they then use the firearm to commit violence, the impacts are everlasting.

Maine has the 38th highest gun death rate in the US, and gun deaths in Maine have increased 50% from 2014-2023, and death by gun suicide has increased 34%. We can do more to improve those grim statistics. We can do more to protect Mainers by preventing death by gun suicide and homicide. Current 72-hour waiting period regulations do that, and for that reason, I urge you to oppose LD 208 which would repeal these safety regulations.

Thank you for the opportunity to share my perspective with the Committee.

Thank you,
Amanda Scarpone