

Testimony in Opposition to L.D. 208-An Act to Eliminate the 72-hour Waiting Period on Firearm Purchases, L.D. 1062-An Act to Eliminate Background Checks for Private Sales of Firearms, and L.D. 1230-An Act to Abolish the 72-hour Waiting Period for a Gun Purchase

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The testimony I give today is the most important testimony I have ever given anywhere. I am testifying here today to try to save lives, because I believe human lives are more important than guns, and because I and millions of people are sick and tired of guns being used to kill people-some 40-50,000 Americans each year. Let me be abundantly clear. Unlike many in the state and federal governments, I **support and respect** the U.S. Constitution. This includes the Second Amendment-the **entire** Second Amendment which was never intended to allow for unrestricted ownership of guns. It was intended to allow for, "...a well-regulated militia, being necessary to the security of a free state."

They said it couldn't happen in Lewiston, Maine until October 25, 2023, when Robert Card shot and killed eighteen people and wounded thirteen more. They said it couldn't happen in Sandy Hook, Connecticut until December 14, 2012, when Adam Lanza shot and killed twenty students and six adults. I grew up and went to school just ten miles from where the Sandy Hook slaughter occurred. School shootings were not even thought of when I was in school.

Personally speaking, I was in a toxic relationship for decades. I refused to ever have a gun, fearing that there would one day be a murder suicide in my home. It only takes seconds to pick up a gun in anger and pull the trigger. Once the bullet is out of the barrel, there is no turning back.

To those organizations like the NRA and SAM, I say shame on you. You have succeeded in manipulating the courts and the entire political system. How many millions of men, women and children have been killed or never even been born because of your actions?

Thanks to pro-gun zealots, Article 1, Section 16 of Maine's constitution reads, "Every citizen has a right to keep and bear arms and this right shall never be questioned." What does this even mean? Does this mean that Maine can never enact gun safety laws?

Those who oppose gun safety laws because they claim they are not enforced, don't want them enforced. To them, not enforcing the law is a reason to strike pro-gun safety laws from the books or to not enact them at all. As a Maine resident, voter, taxpayer, father of two, grandfather of six and soon to be great grandfather, I urge you to not repeal the 72 hour waiting period and the elimination of background checks for private gun sales. It's worth it to save even one life, especially if that life is yours.