

Rachel Herbener
Belfast
LD 208

Please vote No on LD 208

Elected officials have a duty to protect their constituents. Saving a life is more important than the inconvenience of having to wait 72 hours.

See article below with documentation at the end. Thank-you.

By delaying immediate access to firearms, waiting periods create an important “cooling off” period that can help prevent impulsive acts of gun violence, including gun homicides and suicides. Maine has no waiting period law.

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

- Suicide attempts are often impulsive, singular episodes that involve little planning. Many 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.(1)

- Similarly, studies suggest that some of the factors that lead to violence against others, such as anger and rage, can be short-lived. (2)

Waiting period laws, which create a buffer between the time of gun purchase and gun acquisition, can help to prevent impulsive acts of gun violence. In particular, studies suggest that waiting period laws prevent firearm suicides and firearm homicides.

- Studies suggest that waiting period laws are associated with reduced rates of firearm suicide. (3) By one estimation, waiting period laws may reduce firearm suicide rates by 7–11%.³

- Waiting period laws also appear to reduce gun homicide rates. One study found that waiting period laws that delay the purchase of firearms by a few days can reduce gun homicides by roughly 17%. (4)

By requiring a brief cooling off period between the purchase and possession of a firearm, we can save lives from gun violence while preserving Maine’s strong traditions of responsible gun ownership and respect for Second Amendment rights.

(1) Eberhard A. Deisenhammer, et al., “The Duration of the Suicidal Process: How Much Time is Left for Intervention Between Consideration and Accomplishment of a Suicide Attempt?,” *The Journal of Clinical Psychiatry* 70, no. 1 (2008); T. R. Simon, et al., “Characteristics of Impulsive Suicide Attempts and Attempters,” *Suicide and Life-Threatening Behavior* 32 no. 1 (Suppl.) (2001): 49–59; Catherine W. Barber and Matthew J. Miller, “Reducing a Suicidal Person’s Access to Lethal Means of Suicide: A Research Agenda,” *American Journal of Preventive Medicine* 47, no. 3 (2014): S264–S272. See also, Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health, Means Matter, “Impulsivity and Crises,”

<http://www.hsph.harvard.edu/means-matter/means-matter/impulsivity>.

(2) J. Davidson, K. R. Scherer, and H. H. Goldsmith, “The Role of Affect in Decision Making,” *Handbook of Affective Sciences* (2003): 619–642. See also, e.g., David Card and Gordon B. Dahl, “Family Violence and Football: The Effect of Unexpected Emotional Cues on Violent Behavior,” *The Quarterly Journal of Economics* 126, no. 1(2011): 103–143.

(3) Michael Luca, Deepak Malhotra, and Christopher Poliquin, “Handgun Waiting Periods Reduce Gun Deaths,” *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences* 114, no.46 (2017): 12162–12165.

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