

Testimony in opposition of:

LD 208 An Act to Eliminate the 72 -hour Waiting Period on Firearm Purchases

LD 1062 An Act to Eliminate Background Checks for Private Sales of Firearms

LD 1230 An Act to Abolish the 72-hour Waiting Period for a Gun

March 25, 2025

Senator Carney, Representative Kuhn, and Honorable Members of the Judiciary Committee, my name is Art Blank and I live in Bar Harbor and submit this testimony representing the Healthy Acadia Board of Directors. Healthy Acadia is a nonprofit community health organization serving primarily Hancock and Washington counties in addition to partnering with others to deliver services across the state. We submit this testimony in opposition to LD 208, LD 1062 and LD 1230.

We support a public health approach to gun safety, to uphold Maine's traditions of safe and appropriate gun use, while supporting commonsense policies regarding access to guns that support the safety and well-being of all Mainers. We believe these measures discussed undermine these goals. In each case, we just want to reinforce the comments we made in support of these requirements in the last session.

LD 208 An Act to Eliminate the 72 hour Waiting Period on Firearm Purchases, and LD 1230 An Act to Abolish the 72-hour Waiting Period for a Gun:

“The purchase of a gun should not be an ‘impulse buy.’ Establishing a short waiting period would allow for anyone being driven by emotion to reconsider their use of a firearm. Common

sense affirms what studies have shown, that waiting periods reduce the rates of suicide and homicides.”

LD 1062 An Act to Eliminate Background Checks for Private Sales of Firearms:

“Background checks, an easy and convenient established process to prevent people such as violent criminals and domestic abusers from access to firearms, should be universally required when they are purchased. The approach outlined is innovative and we believe will effectively close the venue loophole.”

The bills passed in the last session received strong and thorough review, and we strongly urge you to reinforce those decisions by voting OUGHT NOT to pass LD 208, LD 1062, and LD 1230.