

Julie Orrego
Portland, Maine
April 16, 2025

Senator Carney, Representative Kuhn, and Members of the Judiciary Committee,

My name is Julie Orrego, and I am writing to express my strong opposition to LD 1230, An Act to Abolish the 72-hour Waiting Period for a Gun Purchase.

The 72-hour waiting period serves as a critical safeguard against impulsive acts of violence, including suicides and homicides. Repealing this measure would undermine public safety and disregard the evidence supporting its efficacy.

Studies have consistently demonstrated that waiting periods reduce firearm-related deaths. A 2017 analysis published in the *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences* found that states with waiting periods experienced a 17% reduction in gun homicides and a 7–11% decrease in gun suicides. These findings underscore the importance of such measures in preventing tragedies.

In Maine, the need for such safeguards is exceptionally pressing. According to the Maine Center for Disease Control and Prevention, in 2022, 156 of the 179 gun deaths in the state—approximately 87%—were suicides. This statistic highlights the critical role that waiting periods can play in saving lives by providing individuals in crisis with a brief respite to reconsider their actions.

Public opinion strongly favors waiting periods. A 2023 poll indicated that over 70% of Mainers support measures like waiting periods and universal background checks. This widespread support reflects a collective commitment to responsible gun ownership and a desire to enhance public safety.

Repealing the 72-hour waiting period would be a step backward in our efforts to protect the citizens of Maine. The evidence is clear: waiting periods save lives. I urge this committee to reject LD 1230 and uphold the current law to ensure our communities' continued safety and well-being.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Julie Orrego