



**Maine Medical  
Association**



**TESTIMONY OF THE MAINE MEDICAL ASSOCIATION  
AND  
THE MAINE OSTEOPATHIC ASSOCIATION**

**In Opposition to**

LD 208 - An Act to Eliminate the 72-hour Waiting Period on Firearm Purchases; LD 1230 - An Act to Abolish the 72-hour Waiting Period for a Gun Purchase; and LD 1062 - An Act to Eliminate Background Checks for Private Sales of Firearms

Joint Standing Committee on Judiciary  
Room 438, State House, Augusta, Maine  
Wednesday, April 16, 2025

Good Afternoon, Senator Carney, Representative Kuhn, and Members of the Joint Standing Committee on Judiciary. My name is Anne Sedlack, and I am the Director of Advocacy at the Maine Medical Association. I am submitting this testimony in opposition to LD 208 - An Act to Eliminate the 72-hour Waiting Period on Firearm Purchases; LD 1230 - An Act to Abolish the 72-hour Waiting Period for a Gun Purchase; and LD 1062 - An Act to Eliminate Background Checks for Private Sales of Firearms on behalf of the Maine Medical Association and Maine Osteopathic Association.

The Maine Medical Association (MMA) is a professional organization representing more than 4,000 physicians, residents, and medical students in Maine. MMA's mission is to support Maine physicians, advance the quality of medicine in Maine, and promote the health of all Maine people. The Maine Osteopathic Association (MOA) is a professional organization representing more than 1,200 osteopathic physicians, residents, and medical students in Maine whose mission is to serve the Osteopathic profession of the State of Maine through a coordinated effort of professional education, advocacy, and member services in order to ensure the availability of quality osteopathic health care to the people of this State.

We have joined together to advocate with one voice. We have all determined that it is important to testify in opposition to LD 208, 1230, and 1062.

MMA and MOA have chosen gun safety reform as a priority issue for our Associations because we cannot continue to ignore one of America's most serious public health crises. Deaths by firearms have increased significantly in the last few years, including homicide, suicide, and accidents. We, the physician caregivers for more than a million Mainers, stand up to end this and advocate through the protection of existing state law and the passage of

sensible firearm safety laws in Maine. Maine's physicians are dedicated to our communities' health and well-being. We take our role in advancing public health measures seriously. We have no choice because we are on the front lines of caring for patients affected by gun-related injuries every day.

A 72-hour waiting period law is an effective and time-tested public health measure. It interrupts impulsive violence of all types, including suicide, which accounts for the vast majority of gun deaths occurring in Maine. Suicides often occur in moments of crisis, and the presence of a gun makes it substantially more likely the attempt will be fatal. A 72-hour waiting period can provide a life-saving timeout for a person's mental and emotional de-escalation, allowing someone in crisis to seek help and obtain life-saving resources. A law requiring a 72-hour waiting period is a reasonable yet modest law that supports public health and public safety; for these reasons, we hope you will oppose LD 208 and LD 1230.

As to background checks on the private sale of firearms, background checks are necessary to make sure guns do not fall into the hands of individuals who are prohibited from having them. This includes those with a history of violent crime, domestic abuse, or people suffering from severe mental health conditions. Requiring background checks on all firearm sales, including private transactions, is an easy and effective way to increase public health and the safety of all Mainers.

Weakening Maine's existing firearms law would take us in the wrong direction and would increase access to firearms for people who might pose a risk to themselves or others. We encourage this Committee to oppose LD 1062 and support policies that promote public safety and reduce preventable injury and death.

Thank you for considering the thoughts of Maine's physicians, and we hope you will oppose these bills.

Best,

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