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LD 1378

Honorable members of the Judiciary Committee. I am writing in favor of the Maine Legislature enacting a traditional ERPO LD 1378, the law that gives families the option of going directly to a judge – allowing a judge to do their job and weigh the facts immediately, even if a medical evaluation cannot be obtained, while retaining the existing Yellow Flag law. Furthermore, Maine’s yellow flag law depends upon a determination of a “mental illness” when what needs to be addressed is help when an individual is suffering a mental health crisis. As mass shootings continue to occur with frequency, 21 states have enacted extreme risk protection orders. Maine has a high rate of suicide by gun, and now a mass shooting in Lewiston. Maine needs to have stronger options available to those concerned for their loved ones. Thank you for the opportunity to voice my opinion.