

James Rines
Woolwich
LD 1378

Senator Carney, Representative Kuhn, and esteemed members of the committee. My name is James Rines, and I live in Woolwich. I respectfully testify in support of LD 1378: An Act to Protect Maine Communities by Enacting the Extreme Risk Protection Order Act.

I strongly support an ERPO in Maine. This is the law Maine needs to have to protect our citizens from gun violence. The family/household members know the person in question and are much better equipped to evaluate a potential threat than does a police officer who has no prior knowledge of the person or their history. As the terrible events in Lewiston make clear, we need to have an immediate, elective way to intervene when someone in a mental health crisis is threatening to themselves or others. The red flag law, which is in effect in 21 other states, and which is more streamlined, is more likely to be effective than our current law.