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LD 1378

I am writing to express my opposition to LD 1378 An act to Protect Maine Communities by Enacting the Extreme Risk Protection Order Act. This Act would allow for a hearing to seize a respondent's property without the respondent's knowledge that a hearing is even taken place. This emergency hearing would violate a person's due process rights and therefore LD 1378 is unconstitutional. This act would also require law enforcement to remove a person's weapons after the secret court hearing had taken place. This would create a dangerous and hostile situation between the respondent and law enforcement.

How would this Act actually protect Maine communities if the underlying issues of the alleged "dangerous" respondent are left unaddressed? Do the the supporters of this Act actually believe that the community is safer by kicking in the door of an unsuspecting respondent by law enforcement to confiscate the person's property? Would you expect this alleged "dangerous" person to be more or less angry after this experience? This Act would direct no resources towards addressing the root cause of the underlying issues. The alleged "dangerous" person would remain on the street while most likely more angry and agitated.

LD 1378 is itself a danger to Maine communities and ought not to pass.