

Mary Ellen Quinn  
WINTERPORT  
LD 1378

Hearing date: June 10, 2025

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

As Co-Coordinator of Pax Christi Maine, the Catholic Peace and Justice Movement, I am providing testimony on behalf of our members who reside all across the State of Maine from Biddeford to Houlton.

Christian faith communities, such as ours, are committed to following Jesus' teachings on unconditional love, compassion, nonviolence, care for one another and the common good. As is evident to all of us, the proliferation of violence in our state, country and the world is very disturbing and worsening every day.

Firearms are the leading cause of death from American children and teens. This fact alone should propel all of us to support all legislation that reduces gun violence in our communities.

Extreme Risk Protection Orders will allow family members as well as law enforcement personnel to petition a court to temporarily restrict someone's access to firearms when they are in crisis. So often families are the first to know that their loved one is behaving in a dangerous manner and LD 1378 empowers them to proceed in taking steps through a court proceeding to protect their loved one and others in our communities who might be harmed.

Sadly, Maine's current 'yellow flag' law failed to prevent the horrific mass shooting in Lewiston in October 2023. Twenty one states plus Washington, D.C. currently have Extreme Risk Protection Orders (aka 'red flag' laws). Time and time again, these laws have saved lives. Our Pax Christi members support the passing of LD 1378.

Thank you for your time and consideration of this important legislation.

Mary Ellen Quinn, Winterport  
Co-Coordinator, Pax Christi Maine