

Ryan Schoppe
Brewer
LD 1378

The final report of the Independent Commission to Investigate the Facts of the Tragedy in Lewiston released on Tuesday concludes that both local law enforcement and the U.S. Army Reserve failed to undertake necessary steps to reduce the threat posed by Robert Card II. For Many reasons, a Red Flag law is not the answer. Maine's current yellow flag law, when properly utilized, is adequate to stop a person in crisis.

Studies show that:

- National statistics show nearly 80% of those who have their firearms removed by a Red Flag Order have never committed a crime.

- In other states, Red Flag or "Extreme Risk Protection Orders" are granted 97% of the time based on hearsay and a low standard of evidence. To get your firearms back, however, you must provide a heavy burden of evidence to prove you aren't a threat. This often comes at great cost (hiring an attorney, missing work, tarnished reputation).

- Red Flag Laws do nothing to help the person whose firearms have been removed. There are no mental health evaluations, no restraining orders, no protection offered for the people the person is accused of being a potential threat to.

For these reasons and more, Maine does not need a Red Flag Law.