

Jeanie Barnard
Yarmouth
LD 1378

Senator Carney, Representative Kuhn, and esteemed members of the committee. My name is Jeanie Barnard, I live in Yarmouth, Maine. I respectfully testify in support of LD 1378: An Act to Protect Maine Communities by Enacting the Extreme Risk Protection Order Act. Our daughter was working as an EMT the night of the Lewiston shooting in 2023. She called around 9pm to ask if we had heard about the shootings in Lewiston. We had not. She then they hadn't caught the shooter and she would be transporting victims to the hospital. Then she said she had to go and hung up. My husband and I spent the night wondering if she were safe. We found out the next morning that she was. I tell you this story to say that laws that minimize gun violence will also minimize the number of people affected, including people like me who are parents of first responders. I never want anyone to go through what my husband and I went through that night. I collected over 300 signatures to get the ERPO law on the ballot via referendum. This is extremely important legislation. Sincerely, Jeanie Barnard, LCSW