

Mary Fox
Brunswick
LD 1378

Thank you for the opportunity to express my opinion. I strongly believe an ERPO may have avoided the Lewiston tragedy. The Sheriff that went to Robert Card's home said he could not legally remove the guns from the house...he was out of legal options. An ERPO would have given him the legal option (with a judge's consent!) to remove the weapons that Robert Card's family and friends so desperately feared he would use.

Asking family members to use the "Yellow Flag" path - which requires committing a family member into an institution, is too high a hurdle and takes too long. My uncle experienced a mental breakdown and the family feared he would take his life. His sister had him committed. 65 years later he is still furious with his sister who likely saved his life. Don't make it so hard on families. The Yellow Flag path can take too long in many instances.

The number one cause of death among young people is by gun violence and the majority of these are death by suicide. ERPO/Red Flag laws save lives - particularly of young people. Many states - including conservative, gun tolerant states - have Red Flag laws. Are they perfect?of course not. The ERPO is another TOOL for law enforcement to pursue if they feel the need. Give our law enforcement the tools they need to do their job! This is NOT an infringement on gun rights/ownership. It is temporary and there are penalties for misrepresenting. Remember: A judge must grant the ERPO...it isn't like groups of people get to run around and randomly remove guns from gun owning households.

Let's learn from Lewiston.

Let's save lives in Maine