Joshua Raines Gun Owners of Maine LD 1378

I am vehemently opposed to red flag laws. ERPO laws in general but this one specifically violates both state and federal constitutional laws - State Constitution Article 1, sections 1, 2, 16 AND 24 all at the same time, in addition to federal Amendments 2, 4 and 6. Legislation like this puts Law Enforcement officers in severe danger when they are told to show up at a house and forcibly take firearms from someone that has no idea what is going on.

On top of all of that, the ONLY thing ERPO laws do is to remove firearms. You will have heard testimony that this is in order to prevent suicides, or to stop someone from hurting someone else because they are going through a mental health crisis. If that was truly the case, there would be a mental health aspect to these laws, and there isn't. If that was truly the case, then removing things like access to a vehicle, knives, rope, medication, alcohol, baseball bats would also be in there - it is not.

The enactment and usage of these laws will only serve to make the "problem" worse, stress out everyone involved, put officer's lives at risk, and per Maine constitution and federal amendments, is against the existing LAW. Should the Maine legislature pass this, expect another lawsuit - and as has already been demonstrated, Gun Owners of Maine WILL prevail.