

## Testimony in Support of LD 1378 “An Act to Protect Maine Communities by Enacting the Extreme Risk Protection Order Act”

Senator Carney, Representative Kuhn, and distinguished members of the Judiciary Committee. My name is Anne D. (Andy) Burt and I live in Edgecomb. I am here to testify in support of LD 1378: An Act to Protect Maine Communities by Enacting the Extreme Risk Protection Order Act.”

Research continues to demonstrate that common sense gun safety laws, such as Extreme Risk Protection Orders (ERPOs), save lives by empowering family members and/or law enforcement officers to quickly use ERPOs to go to court and temporarily disarm a family member in crisis. Twenty-one states (Vermont, Massachusetts, Connecticut and Rhode Island in New England) and Washington, DC currently have ERPO laws, which have been constitutionality upheld by the Supreme Court.

The ERPO ballot measure, for which hundreds of Maine volunteers worked tirelessly to get more than the required number of signatures, deserves your support as you work to improve the lives of all Maine people and enact policies that protect our communities. Recognizing the sad fact that firearms are the leading cause of death for American children and teens, it is important to take steps such as enacting ERPOs that can help to prevent suicides and mass shootings.

Respectfully submitted

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LD 1378

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