

Eoghan Carson
Orono
LD 208

Testifying for LD 208: An Act to Eliminate the 72-hour waiting period on Firearm Purchases

Senators, representatives, and members of the committee, my name is Eoghan Carson. I am an eighth grader at Orono Middle school and I am writing in opposition to LD 208, An Act to Eliminate the 72-hour Waiting Period on Firearm Purchases.

The 72-hour waiting period was originally created in response to the Lewiston shooting in 2023. When the shooting happened I was in 6th grade. I remember waking up to the news and being shocked. My peers and I were scared in our own safe state of Maine. The original bill that some of you voted for, to have a 72-hour waiting period lets my classmates and me feel safe.

According to Joe Anderson, A member of the Maine Medical Association who lobbied here before against this bill, “Experiencing suicide in the family and exposure to firearm violence are both independent adverse childhood experiences, which are correlated with long-term negative health consequences”. He also said that states with similar laws had 51% less firearm suicides than states without such laws. The 72-hour waiting periods allow thoughts of violence and suicide to cool down before the people get the guns. Also, 88% of people surveyed in the U.S including 85% of gun owners, are in favor of universal background checks on the sales of weapons.

Also, according to everytownresearch.org, a gun safety support fund, firearms are the most commonly used way of suicide with a 90% fatality rate. Most people who survive from a suicide attempt do not go on to die from suicide. This suggests most suicides are quick decisions that are not thought through.

To add to this Giffords Law Center, a website focused on ending gun violence says, “Similarly, studies suggest that some of the factors that incite violence against others, such as anger and rage, can be short-lived.” This shows how most people who buy guns in the intent of hurting others or themselves are quick reaction thoughts that go away. Finally, The Maine Gun Safety Coalition says that the 72-hour waiting period also allows law enforcement to do further background checks on the people buying the guns.

Let's help our citizens feel safe.

Thank you for reading my testimony and considering my opinion on this bill.