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Testimony in Support of LD 60
An Act to Require a 72-hour Waiting Period After the Sale of a Firearm

Good morning, Senator Beebe-Center, Rep. Salisbury, and members of the Criminal Justice and Public Safety Committee.

My name is Janice Vance and I live in Kennebunk. I am a member of the Maine Gun Safety Coalition, which raises awareness about the effects of firearm violence. I urge you to pass LD 60.

We have all seen increases in shootings in public spaces, as well as in “family” and domestic violence shootings. In so many of these tragedies, the shooter was motivated by anger and grievance, and wanted to “get even” with someone - a boss or an ex-wife, or by targeting a group or a school. The shooter in some cases impulsively bought a firearm – often legally - and used it the very same day to murder or wound innocent people. These acts of anger happen every single day in our country.

The second risk of someone buying a firearm and using it immediately is suicide. In Maine, we have a suicide-by-firearm rate that is one of the highest in the country – 89% of all firearm deaths in 2021. Accordingly, the state has recently committed to invest significant funds to address suicide prevention. LD 60 could be a strong component of that program.

In delaying the completion of a firearm purchase, LD 60 would give people time to work through their own worst instincts. Impulsively buying a firearm is not like impulsively buying a hat or a pair of shoes. It can be a life-changing act. I would like to thank Rep. Craven for introducing the bill, and I urge you to pass it.