

Tuesday, March 5th, 2024

**LD 2119 An Act Relating to Preventing Suicide by Permitting the Voluntary Waiver of Firearms Rights**

Dear Senator Carney, Representative Moonan, and members of the Judiciary Committee, my name is Diane Kew, and I live in Brunswick, Maine.

While I have never purchased a gun to end my life, I could. In fact, if I had done so earlier in my life, I am certain I would not be here to testify today.

When I was 16, I tried to commit suicide, and then I tried again when I was in my 30s. Both times, once I had a plan, my decision was final. It became a fixation, and no logic could make me waiver in my singular desire to end things, as I believed dying was the only way to end my pain as well as the pain of others around me.

That's why today, more than two decades after my last attempt, if given the opportunity, I would sign a voluntary waiver of firearm rights to protect me from my future self. While I think I'm finally smart enough to know that killing myself does not solve anything—and, in fact, creates its own complications for those you love—I've also tried to kill myself twice already, so who knows if I will ever be in a situation that would make me consider it again.

Consequently, wouldn't it be a good idea to have a safety mechanism in place so I can protect myself while I am in the right frame of mind? And, as LD 2119 proposes, wouldn't it be even better if I could have someone I love and trust—aka my spouse—be an alternate contact should I decide to file a revocation of my *voluntary* waiver of firearm rights? That way, if I do decide to pick up hunting as a hobby, no problem. But if I have more nefarious intentions, then my spouse would be able to help me again—as he has done before.

Please vote "ought to pass" on LD 2119 so that those of us who have the potential to be a harm to ourselves or others can *voluntarily* do something about it while we are in the right frame of mind. Thank you.