

Senator Carney, Representative Moonen and honorable members of the Judiciary Committee.

My name is Margo Donniss. I live in South Portland.

I'm here to provide testimony in support of LD 2224.

Arthur Barnard - the father of Lewiston shooting victim, Artie Strout - has asked that lawmakers do something to address problems with Maine's gun laws. I feel that he is someone we should all listen to, someone we should respect.

LD 2224 addresses one loophole in our laws.

In September, the disturbed individual who would - one month later - kill 18 people in Lewiston, refused to answer his door to Sagadahoc Sheriff officers.

Had LD 2224 been in force, the Sheriff could have requested that the District Court judge issue a protective custody warrant, which would have authorized them to take the disturbed individual into protective custody.

We cannot know if LD 2224 - had it been in effect - would have prevented the Lewiston tragedy. We do know that this law will address one loophole that someone like the Lewiston shooter will not be able to slip through again.

I'm here because I am lucky this time. I'm not one of the 18 who died in Lewiston. I'm here because I fear for my life and for the life of my family and friends. I fear being shot. I fear experiencing the grief that Arthur Barnard speaks of.

I urge you to vote 'ought to pass' for LD 2224. I ask you to protect us from the armed and disturbed individuals among us. What we can do, we must do.