

Greetings Senator Carney, Representative Moonen and members of the Judiciary Committee. My name is Jeanie Barnard. I am a recently retired psychotherapist and I live in Yarmouth Maine. I am here to provide testimony in support of LD 2224.

As a therapist with more than 40 years of experience I am no stranger to peoples' experiences of abuse, grief, trauma and all sorts of human mayhem. However, until October 25th I had not been up close and personal with the threat of gun violence here in Maine.

Our daughter is an EMT and on October 25th she was working in Lisbon. We got a call that night at 9:30 and it went like this:

Mom, have you heard the news?

What news?

There's been a mass shooting up here in Lewiston. We just finished transporting someone to CMMC. Maggie, are you alright?

Yeah, I'm OK. The shooter is still out there somewhere.

Then she says and I can hear her still "Gotta go" and she hangs up. I was stupefied. I realized that in the course of her job my kid was in danger. And her father and I could do nothing about it.

But you can. You can turn the sleepless nights and mind numbing grief for people who lost loved ones in Lewiston into hope for a better future. You must make new processes for temporarily removing guns from people who are a threat. Law enforcement needs more tools and families need more paths to get help for their loved ones. We need stronger extreme risk protection legislation. Maine citizens deserve it.

With regard to LD 2224 I urge this committee to vote ought to pass.

Thank you

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