

Testimony LD 2024

Senator Carney, Representative Moonen and Members of the Judiciary Committee:

My name is Elizabeth Ramage-Healey and I am here to testify in support of the ERPO proposal in LD 2224 by strengthening it.

A member of my extended family is the police chief in a small town in Massachusetts. When a family calls them for help in a domestic disturbance, the first thing his officers do is temporarily remove guns from the house. A court date is immediately set up to review within a few days the danger of the situation.

Massachusetts has different gun laws, but it makes me wonder why we can't have this simple approach in Maine. A family requests help from the police who then temporarily remove the dangerous weapon(s) and set up a speedy court date to review whether the weapons can safely be returned.

It's the gun that poses the extreme risk. Why is there so much resistance to its immediate, temporary removal? The extra layers in the current ERPO proposal could be seen to be more concerned about safeguarding the gun than the family at risk. Remove the gun risk first, then focus on getting help for the gun owner. Isn't this simple approach is the best way to protect our families at risk?