

Dear Honorable members of the Judiciary Committee and others in the room or on Zoom,

My name is Jim Lysen and I have lived in Lewiston for the past 40 years.

Following the devastating and preventable mass shootings in Lewiston and Bowdoin last year, I am pleased that my Senator, Peggy Rotundo, and others, including the Governor and Speaker Talbot-Ross, have put forward elements of sensible gun policy this session. I agree with the Governor that the shooting in Lewiston was a personal violation of all Mainers. I hope that all these Bills are but a starting point, in hopes of further strengthening our gun laws in Maine.

They include a 72 waiting period for firearm purchases which will definitely reduce suicide rates in Maine which have significantly risen in the past few years. However, we could use an Extreme Risk Protection Law that could help keep guns out of the wrong hands.

Second, a prohibition on devices that enable semi-automatic firearms to be turned into machine guns.

Finally, creating an Office of Gun Violence Prevention, Speaker Talbot-Ross' Bill, LD 2237 which was heard earlier this week.

I am hopeful that we can use these Bills as a starting point and that the Governor and Legislature can continue to work together on this important initiative. We know that we can respect the rights to own firearms while making sure that Maine has sensible, common sense laws in place to protect Mainers. It is critical that these long overdue measures become law. Please vote "Ought to Pass" on these important, first-step Bills. Thank you for the time to present this testimony.

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