

Joint Standing Committee on Judiciary  
State House, Room 438  
Thursday, March 7th, 2024

***Testimony in support of LD 2224, “An Act to Strengthen Public Safety by Improving Maine’s Firearm Laws and Mental Health System” and LD 2238, “An Act to Address Gun Violence in Maine by Requiring a Waiting Period for Certain Firearm Purchases”***

Good afternoon Senator Carney, Representative Moonen and distinguished members of the Joint Standing Committee on Judiciary. My name is Moriah Scharn, I am a sophomore at Bates College, and I am testifying in support of LD 2224 and LD 2238.

I remember seeing the news about the shooting at Sandy Hook Elementary School when I was 12. I may have only been 12, but I didn’t need to know much to know that it was awful and that it should not have happened. I was ever so convinced that nothing like this would ever happen again, because why would it? How could it? Who would let something like that ever happen again? It is devastating that I am still asking these same questions eight years later after the 10th deadliest mass shooting happened in our own backyard.

Never have I ever thought that a typical Wednesday night acapella rehearsal at Bates would turn into a 46-hour lockdown with the news that 18 lovely lives have been taken, as well as many injured, with the shooter still on the loose. In those 46 hours I was left with my thoughts. All I could think about was how each of those lives were not done yet. They had so much more to see, to do, and to love.

So, here is what I can do. LD 2224 and LD 2238 would take significant steps to prevent gun violence in Maine. By introducing a 72-hour waiting period for firearm purchases, these legislative measures aim to reduce impulsive acts of violence. Additionally, they seek to ensure more secure transactions by mandating background checks for unlicensed and publicly advertised gun sales. Furthermore, they aim to assist law enforcement with the ability to temporarily detain individuals deemed potentially dangerous, pending an evaluation, in that way preventing firearms from falling into the wrong hands.

For the love of Maine, I urge you to please vote LD 2224 and LD 2238 “Ought to Pass”. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Moriah Scharn  
Lewiston