

LD 2224
LD 2238

Senator Rotundo, Representative Cloutier, Representative Craven, Esteemed Members of the Judiciary Committee:

My name is Remy Schneider and I reside in Portland. I'm here today to urge you to vote "ought to pass" for LD 2224 and LD 2238 and also to express my hope that you will soon enact stronger measures, such as a traditional ERPO and an assault weapons, bump stock & high capacity magazine ban, to protect our children and to keep our communities safe.

You have a hard job to do, bearing the burden of fixing Maine's problems. I don't envy you and I thank you for your service. I am grateful to the sponsors of this legislation, but I am also frustrated that it does not go further. As Public Servants, it is your responsibility to make laws that protect Maine's residents. I'm here because I have a 5-year-old child starting kindergarten in the fall and there is a real risk that he could be killed by gun violence before he reaches 18. In 2021, firearms surpassed cars as the leading cause of death for children under 18.¹ There were 689 mass shootings in 2021, 646 in 2022, and 656 in 2023.² These figures are unacceptable. We must do better.

It is your job as Legislators to make meaningful laws that keep our communities safe. We can't drive 100 mph on the freeway, we can't smoke in restaurants, we can't even replace a toilet without applying for a permit with the town. Yet any person in Maine can buy a bump stock or an assault rifle designed to kill people as quickly as possible, online or at a gun show without so much as a background check.

You heard questionable testimony on Tuesday about the purpose of bump stocks. I would hope, Distinguished Members of the Judiciary Committee, that you have discerning ears and a sound mind and are able to filter out the fraudulent testimony and focus on the truth—that gun legislation saves lives. Listen to the educators, the physicians, the students who are pleading with you to do something. 72 hour waiting periods, background checks, and ERPO's save lives. And let's not forget that if the guns weren't on the streets to begin with, we wouldn't be here pleading with you to prevent the next mass casualty that's right around the corner. If you do not take action, it's not a matter of if the next shooting will occur, it's a question of where and when. And you will be held accountable, by me and by all of the others in this building that came today to express their concerns. The clock is ticking. Will you rise to the occasion?

Please vote "ought to pass" on LD 2224 and LD 2238, and on all of the future gun safety legislation that I look forward to seeing.

¹ Trends in Pediatric Nonfatal and Fatal Injuries, Research Brief, October 5, 2023.

² [Gunviolencearchive.org/past-tolls](https://gunviolencearchive.org/past-tolls). A mass shooting is defined as a minimum of 4 victims shot, either injured or killed, not including any shooter who may also have been killed or injured in the incident.