

The Honorable Janet Mills
1 State House Station
Augusta ME 04333

The Honorable Angus King
40 Western Ave, E.S. Muskie Federal Building, Room 412
Augusta, Maine 04330

The Honorable Troy Jackson
167 Allagash Road
Allagash, ME 04774

The Honorable Eloise Vitelli
3 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333

Dear Governor Mills, Senator King, Senator Jackson and Senator Vitelli,

As mental health practitioners in Maine, we have seen firsthand the impact of gun violence on our community. The trauma it inflicts is not just physical but psychological and these psychological wounds are widespread and insidious. We feel strongly that preventative measures of basic gun safety regulation is a vital step in preventative health care for our state.

This is what we request:

- 1) Institute a 72-hour waiting period after purchasing a gun**
- 2) Institute a mandatory background check before purchasing a gun**
- 3) Implement a red flag law**
- 4) Ban Assault weapons as well as rapid-fire modification devices**

Here is why we know taking these steps will be effective:

A waiting period allows crucial time for impulsive buyers or those intending harm to reconsider their decisions, gain psychiatric help if needed or be intercepted by law enforcement. Behavioral economics and psychology suggest this is an

effective practice due to the intensity of the impulse to hurt oneself or others being often transient. Harvard Business School found that waiting periods could reduce gun homicides by roughly 17%. As nearly 90% of Maine's gun deaths are suicides, a waiting period is likely to significantly reduce Maine's overall suicide rate and overall gun deaths. It would also decrease our veteran suicide rate, which is nearly double our overall suicide rate.

Mandatory background checks are essential to ensure that firearms do not end up in the hands of someone with malintent. Currently, private sellers in Maine are not required to conduct background checks. This loophole needs to be closed. The FBI reported through the freedom of information act that in 2020 the background check system in place for gun sales blocked over 300,000 illegal gun sales.

Implementing a red flag law would allow family members or law enforcement officers to petition for the temporary removal of firearms from individuals deemed at risk of harming themselves or others. Our yellow flag law requires a psychiatric evaluation before a judge can be asked to put through a court order. This creates a slower system at a time of acute need for fast intervention with someone at risk to themselves or others. A study from UC Davis showed that the red flag law was effectively used in 58 cases of individuals threatening mass shootings in California in the last three years. The Journal of Psychiatric Services researched the impact of the red flag law in Connecticut and found a 13.7% decrease in firearm suicides after enforcing the red flag law.

Assault weapons are designed for rapid fire and combat not for civilian protection. According to the Giffords Law Center to Prevent Gun Violence, while the federal assault weapons ban was in place mass shootings were 70% less likely to occur.

There is clear evidence that implementing these laws together would allow for a safety net to better support those struggling with mental health issues and help prevent unnecessary physical and psychological trauma. We urge lawmakers in Maine to consider these measures seriously to support mental health within our state.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Mental Health Practitioners for Basic Gun Safety.
Initiated by Victoria Libby M.S.Ed., Psy.D.

Timestamp	Full Name	Address	Email
2023/12/22 12:27	Victoria Libby	386 Fore St. Sou	vicki@victorialibt
2023/12/22 1:27	Sarah Durant Fin	12 Clipper Street	sarahdurant@ba
2023/12/22 2:22	Jennifer Dimond,	19 Andrea Lane,	jendimond@gma
2023/12/22 3:15	Abbie Leary LCP	Bailey Island, ME	abbie.sturm@gm
2023/12/22 4:38	Stephanie Morro	11 Brunelle Aven	smorrowlcsw@gl
2023/12/22 11:21	Wes Covey	535 Ocean Ave	Wcovey@catt-as
2023/12/23 7:10	Rita McPhillips, L	83 Starboard Dri	ritamcphillipslcs
2023/12/23 8:45	Anmarie Reed	10 Brookside Av	Anmarie@solstic
2023/12/23 10:51	Sophia Richards	56 Carleton St	Portland
2023/12/23 1:45	Meghan Walsh	12 Tarbell Ave.	meghanwalsh22@
2023/12/23 2:12	Dustin Spencer-L	215 Berry Road,	dustinspencer57@
2023/12/25 5:52	Leanne Snowma	1 Boucher Ave	Leanne@solstice
2023/12/27 9:41	Loren Bush	23 Thompson St	Drlorenbush@gm
2023/12/27 9:49	Alexandra Lash,	45 Sunset Rd, F	Dralexandralash@
2023/12/27 10:01	Susan Penza-Clj	17 Oak Ridge Rc	spenza@me.com
2023/12/27 10:11	Kate White, PhD	3 Orange St Port	Drwhite@psycho
2023/12/27 10:21	Lorraine O. Wigh	2 Miller Road Lis	lorrainewight@gm
2023/12/27 10:31	James Daniel Zu	4 Grier Rd	dan@zuiches.co
2023/12/27 11:01	Laura Brennan	35 Main St, Bow	Laura.a.brennan@
2023/12/27 11:11	Mary P Donahue	P.O. Box 838, Yc	Drdonahue@min
2023/12/27 11:51	Rae Egbert, Psyl	14 MAINE STRE	dregbert@psychi
2023/12/27 2:39	Hilarie Fotter Ker	31 Forest LN	
2023/12/27 3:05	Annette Williams	44 central ave,	awilliams.maine@
2023/12/27 5:35	Brenna Coughlin	63 Elm St Topsh:	Coughlincounseli
2023/12/28 8:46	Elizabeth Merrill	379 Middle Road	egmerrill@gmail.
2023/12/28 8:56	Rebekah Bickfor	P.O. Box 22	bekah@growwel
2023/12/28 9:57	Donna Bann	9 Everett St., Bru	bannfamily@gma
2023/12/28 10:11	Robert King, MD	2 Portland Squar	drking@psycholc
2023/12/28 12:31	Chloé Lapointe, I	443 Main Street.	Chloe@lapointe@
2023/12/28 1:10	Tessa Vellani, M	22 Maple St. Hall	tessavellani@gm
2023/12/28 2:21	Leanne Pomeroy	697 Gray Road u	Leapomeroy@gm
2023/12/28 2:24	Eric Penrod	306 US Rte 1 Bu	Eric@thefamilycc
2023/12/28 3:17	Erica R Brown	24 Honeysuckle	Ericaraebrown00
2023/12/28 5:25	Stephen Albers	South Portland, I	stephen.albers3@
2023/12/28 6:30	Leah Brown	23 Mason Way	lmabrown216@g
2023/12/28 6:34	Paige Lynch	208 Chick Crossi	pbrown207@gm:
2023/12/31 12:21	Megan B. Marsh,	95 India St, Portl:	drmeganmarsh@
2023/12/31 6:28	Janis C Mallon,	126 Edes Rd., Cui	Janis.mallon@m.
2024/01/01 2:57	Eliza Lee	111 Bruce Hill R	elizaleephd@gm
2024/01/01 2:57	Lucy G Quimby	1230 Kenduskea	lucy.quimby@yal
2024/01/01 2:59	Jayne Boulos, Ps	60 Edgewood Rc	jmboulos@aol.cc
2024/01/01 2:59	Keith Danner	12 Davis st Lewis	keithdanner34@:
2024/01/01 3:05	Thomas Collins	43 Forest Glen L	tktdpkc@yahoo.c
2024/01/01 3:17	Stephen Benson	PO Box 1257, Bl	sbenson58@gm:
2024/01/01 3:25	John M. O'Brien	251 Woodford St	obrien@mentalhu

2024/01/01 3:43: Jeff Matranga, Pl 2 Big Sky Lane, \ Jeffmatranga@g
2024/01/01 4:06: Quynn Morehou 23 Thompson St Drquynnmorehou
2024/01/01 4:57: Michael S Dixon 126 Everett Rd michaelsdixonph
2024/01/01 5:02: Catherine Lesche 107 Delano Park Kate.leschey@gi
2024/01/01 5:34: Dr. Kathleen Har 87 Woodlands Dr kathleenhart@ha
2024/01/01 5:36: Liza Little 75B st , South Pl Lizalittle55@gma
2024/01/01 8:27: Rebecca Reid Br 16 verrill road gra Rreid@maine.ed
2024/01/02 8:36: Sarah Kelly 37 Horseshoe Dr sarkelcope@gma
2024/01/02 11:0: Destry Oldham-S 6 Mill St. doldsib@gmail.c
2024/01/02 11:5: Maine Associatio PO Box 190, Mai mainepsychiatris
2024/01/02 11:5: Laura Sproch Saco, ME drsproch@gmail.
2024/01/02 2:52: Christopher McLi PO Box 1291 Ba cmclaughlin.nasv
2024/01/02 3:43: Julie M. Schirme 6 Lincoln Farms jschirme4@gmai
2024/01/02 3:58: Lauren Dattilo, P 46 Elm Street, Tr drdattilo@psych
2024/01/02 6:30: Jordyn Deschene 13 Beech Road S Jordyn.deschene
2024/01/02 7:05: Mary McCann 16 Marigold Lane Drmmccann@gn
2024/01/03 6:37: Michelle Kanga 4 Kimberley Circl Drkanga@psych
2024/01/03 9:26: deborah como-ke 6 cumberland st, debkepler@yaho
2024/01/03 5:47: Alexandra Schro 15 Ivie Rd Alexnschroder@
2024/01/04 3:07: Jenna Labbe-Wa 168 W. Meadow drlabbewatson@
2024/01/15 8:42: Layne Gregory 120 Woodville Rd lmgregory12255;
2024/01/30 11:0: Dustin Spencer-L 215 Berry Road, dlheureux.lcsw@
2024/01/30 12:0: Rebecca Lyons, Kennebunk Main RLYons@SacoM
2024/01/30 2:01: RITA ALFONSO BELGRADE REC ritaalfonso.labart
2024/01/30 2:29: Shelby Chamber 28 North St. Apt. shelbychamberlir
2024/01/30 2:34: Deanne Ochoa-L 593 Washington dochoadurrell@c
2024/01/30 7:14: Audrey J Yeaton 69 Raydon Rd E: audrey@yeatonp
2024/01/30 8:57: Rachael Tyler 5 Conway St Uni ractyler@roadrur
2024/01/31 7:40: Jennifer McCann 186 Ocean Hous jmccann211@gn
2024/01/31 8:52: Ashley Legassie 12 Estey Ln Map alegassie@north
2024/01/31 12:3: Carol Zack 84 Eastern Prom czackatnefi@gm
2024/01/31 2:14: Alex Garry 76 Loring Ave agarry@spurwinl
2024/02/01 10:0: Jessica Adriance 30 Pine Street jladriance@gmai
2024/02/01 10:5: Dr. Michael Wrigl 69 Northport Ave contact@drmicha
2024/02/01 4:49: Karen Verdelli, L 73 Washington S kmverdelli@gma
2024/02/03 7:39: Nancy Plouffe, L P.O. Box 1102, E nplouffe@yahoo.
2024/02/03 11:3: Jeanie K. McPhe 654 Bangor Rd., mcpherson.jeanie
2024/02/09 2:57: Devin Elizabeth ` 10 Melody Lane deyhillery@gmai
2024/02/12 11:0: Erin McGann 48 Emus Way Yc erin.mcgann1@c
2024/03/02 2:31: Virginia Brewster 34 high st calais virginiahood@gn
2024/03/02 2:47: Margaret Owen Rusty bucket lan Mbw6@bu.edu
2024/03/02 5:17: Tia Warner 24 Allied Way Hæ Tia.warner7286@
2024/03/02 11:0: Anna Strout 10 Robinhood Rd annagstrout@grr
2024/03/03 9:03: Samantha shand 551 Washington Sam_shan19@h
2024/03/03 3:05: Benjamin Borkan 26 Spring St. Bel Ben@mainerelat
2024/03/03 7:03: Megan Angelos 14 Cornerstone I Info@meganang

2024/03/05 11:59 Paul J Sturmer 112 Landry Dr, H drsturmer@myot