

Testimony by Ray B. Owen on LD 2224 and 2238 and Associated Bills

Senator Carney and Representative Moonen and members of the Legislative Joint Standing Committee on Judiciary

My name is Ray Owen and I reside in Orono, Maine. I have owned guns and hunted for over 75 years. I am also a past Commissioner of the Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife. I wish to support your efforts to restrict the use of inappropriate weapons, the sale and ownership of weapons to individuals who should not own them, and more oversight in the area of mental health and use and ownership of weapons. Our state motto is: Dirigo, I lead. Maine has some of the least restrictive gun regulations in the country ; please lead the effort to correct this and save lives.

Specifically, I support:

1. Universal background checks.
2. A ban on assault weapons.
3. A 72-hour waiting period for firearms purchases.
4. A prohibition of bump-stocks and similar modifications.
5. Movement from a yellow flag to red flag regulation.
6. And, increased efforts to deal with gun ownership and mental health.

I know many, many gun owners who support a movement in this direction. The NRA and their Maine affiliate, The Sportsman's Alliance of Maine, do not represent the average Maine citizen nor even many gun owners in Maine.

Please, be strong, be brave, and do the right thing.

Thank you.