



# HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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Senator Carney, Representative Moonen, and honorable members of the committee on Judiciary, My name is Mike Soboleski. I proudly serve much of the Western Maine region in House District 73. I come before you today to be a voice for the Second Amendment rights of my constituents, and the entire State of Maine.

LD 2238, "*An Act to Address Gun Violence in Maine by Requiring a Waiting Period for Certain Firearm Purchases*" would implement a 72-hour waiting period between an agreement for the purchase and sale of a firearm and the delivery of that firearm to the purchaser. This proposal is a blatant violation of the Second Amendment of the United States Constitution, as well as the Constitution of the State of Maine.

This proposal would do nothing but hinder the ability of law-abiding Mainers to exercise their rights and to protect themselves and their families. There is no evidence that waiting periods reduce homicides, and according to the National Rifle Association, "Federal Studies have repeatedly found that person imprisoned for firearm crimes get their firearms mostly through theft, the black market, or family members or friends...".

It is evident that our Law Enforcement officers across Maine, but more specifically in rural areas are lacking not only in recruitment and retention but also in securing the funding necessary to bring their departments back up to an adequately staffed level. Meaning that many people in need of assistance in their area face even longer wait times for emergency services to reach their door. I feel strongly that it is reprehensible to restrict access to firearms for self to defense.

Finally, if this bill is about reducing suicide it is equally misguided. Approaching the issue of suicide, which has recently risen to the highest rates since the end of World War II, by simply trying to restrict the tools used by people in crisis is a futile endeavor. The energy and resources being taken up by conversations on gun control would be better spent bolstering our mental health system, ensuring the stability of our social programs, and improving the poor economic conditions that spike rates of suicide.

I would ask this legislature to end their politicization of the tragedy this state has endured to advance preexisting policy goals. Piling on legislation that does nothing to address, or even attempt to understand, the holes in our current system is a recipe for failure. How can we as lawmakers get to the root cause of these problems in our systems by hastily passing new gun control legislation?

Please carefully consider the implications of passing this legislation and vote in opposition to LD 2238.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michael A. Soboleski".

Michael A. Soboleski  
State Representative