

My name is Mark Coitrone from Auburn, and I am here to testify in opposition, again, to an arbitrary 72 hour waiting period bill. This time, LD 2238.

The key point I would like to address here is that my household, like roughly half of Maine households according to the nonprofit and nonpartisan RAND Corporation, already has firearms. I am even carrying one every time I make a gun purchase. The question I want you to answer is a simple one: If I am already in possession of a firearm while purchasing another, then what is it I'm waiting for? This is not a rhetorical question, I want an answer.

This is nothing but an attempt to make firearms ownership even more legally precarious than it already is. The perpetrator of the Lewiston shooting, like most mass murderers, was able to purchase a gun legally and far earlier than three days ahead of his crime.

In regards to LD 2224, I would like to focus on the background check section of the bill. This has got to be the third or fourth time this proposal has been introduced, including the referendum years ago that the people of Maine voted on directly and rejected, despite the financial backing of outspoken white supremacist Michael Bloomberg.

The fact that you are bringing this up after the Lewiston massacre, where it is not relevant in the slightest, shows that you are nothing but politically motivated. The biggest problem with this bill is its severe penalties for normal behavior. I want each of you that support this to look me in the eyes and tell me that the trauma I endured last October wasn't enough, and that I deserve to have the police come to my home and inflict more harm on me and my family. Because I have no intention of following this law.