

Testimony of John Anthony in opposition to LD2238

Senator Carney, Representative Moonen, members of the Judiciary Committee. I am John Anthony of Harpswell and I am testifying in opposition to LD2238.

Carol Browne was a 39-year old hairdresser who, being violently abused by her boyfriend Michael, broke off the relationship and continued with her life. Her decision apparently upset him because he continued to follow Carol and violently threaten her with physical harm. Legitimately fearing for her safety she notified the police and asked them to patrol her residence. They could not do this due to limited manpower nor are they charged to provide personal protection. Carol sought and obtained a restraining order against Michael. She installed security cameras at her home. She installed an alarm system. Still, Carol knew that these passive measures would be inadequate were there ever to be a physical confrontation. So, taking personal responsibility for her life seriously, she proceeded to purchase what can effectively equalize a violent situation between a 5' 90-pound woman and a 6'4" 275-pound man—a firearm.

But Carol lived in New Jersey, a state that requires a purchaser to wait between the time of transaction and actual receipt of the weapon. On June 3, 2015, before the state allowed her to possess the firearm, Michael visited her home, broke the windows of her car and, while she was defenseless without the firearm she had lawfully purchased, violently stabbed her to death, the crime being faithfully recorded on the security cameras she had installed.

New Jersey's governor and legislature own responsibility for the tragic murder this ill-conceived law aided. While the purported reasons to impose waiting periods are largely hypothetical, with little reference to actual instances they would counteract, the reasons to NOT impose them are real and glaring. They infringe on a citizen's right to bear arms enshrined in Maine's constitution and may even result in a tragedy like Carol Browne's. The popular refrain, "A right delayed is a right denied" was certainly true in Carol's case. Even more, her very life was denied.

Don't allow this to happen in Maine. No other right in Maine's constitution requires a waiting period before exercising it; neither must this right. This proposed legislation offers essentially zero upside and a host of downsides. Defeat LD2238.

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