

# **LD.2224 and LD.2238**

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Nobody wants to lose a relative to death by suicide with a gun, like I have.

And no woman wants to get text saying that children whom they gave birth to are in a school shooter lockdown, like my wife received on December 14, 2012.

Guns are machines that have only one purpose: to kill. And just like every other device that has potential to harm or kill, it is appropriate and necessary to regulate their possession and use, just like we regulate the use of motor vehicles, explosives and dangerous chemicals.

Background checks in the internet age are easy to perform and impose minimal inconvenience on law-abiding gun purchasers. They prevent people who should not have guns from buying them.

A waiting period between purchasing and receiving a firearm are known to reduce rates of homicide and suicide (1), again at minimal inconvenience to law-abiding gun purchasers. Just a 10% reduction in firearm suicides in Maine would save 15 lives.

It is absolutely essential that you strengthen our Yellow Flag laws, and make it easier to temporarily separate people in crisis from their killing machines. We cannot have another Lewiston.

I closed my business for the day and drove 2-1/2 hours to be here in person, as gun safety legislation is very important to me. [I've been told that some lawmakers don't give the same value to phone calls and letters from their constituents.]

I came here today to ask each of you to make LD.2224 and LD.2238 as strong as possible and to vote for passage of both. I also ask that you support the other gun safety bills in this session, and that you work to pass additional gun control legislation including: a ban on any device, weapon or combination capable of firing more than 10 rounds per minute; and strict liability for owners and users of all guns in Maine.

1. M Luca, D Malholtra, and C Poliquin, "Handgun Waiting Periods Reduce Gun Deaths," Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences 114, no. 46 (2017): 12162-12165