

JUDICIARY COMMITTEE, L.D. 2238, L.D. 2224

Chairs Carney and Moonen, and members of the Judiciary Committee, my name is Peter Fromuth, I live in Yarmouth. I speak today in support of L.D. 2238 and L.D. 2224. While LD 2224 could be improved by an amendment that I will describe, even in the absence of change I urge the Committee to vote **ought to pass both bills.**

L.D. 2238 would require a 72-hour waiting period between the sale and delivery of a firearm. Because suicides are often impulsive acts with little forethought, that 3-day delay can be a life saver. Recently a National Academy of Sciences study reported that the 72-hour delay caused a decline of 7-11% in a single year. In Maine, that's 11- to - 17 out of 158 gun suicides in 2021 who could be living life today. Think of those lives saved - - often kid's lives. The same 3-day cooling-off period has been shown to reduce homicides by as much as 17%, so LD 2238 is a powerful anti-crime bill too.

LD 2224 requires a background check for guns sold at gun shows or via print or online advertisements, a goal supported by a large majority of Mainers. This would help close a gap in our gun laws currently allowing people to acquire guns without proof that they are legally permitted to do so.

I support it but would fix a loophole. Section 395.2 limits the transactions it covers to sales at gun shows and sales in response to print or online advertisements. But gifts or transfers without money or other consideration are excluded. So the parties to those transfers, many of them possibly criminals, would evade the background check requirement. We can fix this by deleting subs A and B in Section 395.2 and re-wording 395.2 to state: **"...This section applies to all sales, transfers or gifts, except as specified in Section 3."**

Finally, the creation of a modest Emergency Relief Protection Order is also contained in L.D. 2224. It is slightly better than our existing Yellow Flag but still falls well short of what public safety requires. My time has elapsed, but I believe other witnesses plan to address those weaknesses.

Thank you.