

***** Friday, April 5, 2024 at 12:00 PM**

State House (Augusta), Room 438:

Members of the Judiciary Committee,
My name is Andee Reardon, I'm a resident of Auburn.

I am here in opposition of LD 2283 "An Act to Enact the Crisis Intervention Order Act to Protect the Safety of the Public,"

This bill is a knee-jerk reaction to what happened in Lewiston before any of the studies and investigations are finished. The yellow flag law that was put into place the last time red flag was proposed was never used in the situation in Lewiston. It's not the lack of laws but the lack of enforcement of those laws that failed Lewiston. I did some research and we actually had a process in place **before** the yellow flag law that would have been able to stop the tragedy in Lewiston. So again, why are we making new laws when the ones we already have are not being enforced?

As a woman who works with survivors of abuse and violent attacks, I cannot stand by a bill that puts women at a greater risk. Women and their children often killed and brutally battered while trying to flee their abuser and this bill gives an abuser the perfect tool to disarm their victims. I personally have dealt with the lengthy process to prove abuse and obtain a protection order from a spouse, it's not easy. If my abuser knew all it took was a phone call from a concerned husband to ensure I was unarmed, I believe he would have used this as a tool to disarm me and further harass me, keep me in fear and possibly to harm me. While going through this process, the law enforcement officers failed to obtain his court ordered firearms. This happens often as well as victims not being told of their abuser's release. All the more reason why these women need their firearms and they shouldn't have to worry about someone lying to disarm them.

Some of the survivors I have worked with have been to court where

their abuser lied to try to make their life more difficult. A red flag law is an abuser's dream. No court needed to immediately cause terror and danger.

If passed, LD 2283 would remove protective barriers and streamline the process for abusers and government officials to strip law abiding citizens of their Second Amendment rights without due process.

I urge you to vote against any bill that would remove rights to protect the innocent. Let's prevent what happened in Lewiston from never happening again by looking at the studies of how many people dropped the ball and passed the buck, failing everyone. We can fix it.

Maine doesn't have a gun problem. We have a mental health problem with a lack of resources. We have a domestic violence problem with a lack of resources. We have a lot of laws that aren't being enforced, criminals being released too soon.

I oppose the endangerment of women and their children fleeing an abuser, so I oppose LD2283 and ask that you do too.