

Senator Carney, Representative Moonen, members of the Judiciary Committee.

I am Dr. Allen Browne. I am a retired pediatric/trauma surgeon. I served in the U.S. Army for three years. I have been an occasional hunter. I live in Falmouth.

I am here to testify in favor of LD2283 - a true Extreme Risk Protection Order bill. I testified before you about the yellow flag bill last month. This bill is a vast improvement. We know that by listening to the people involved in the recent incidents in Maine.

This bill is really Right for Maine!

90% of gun deaths in Maine are suicides.

People who commit suicide are usually acutely depressed, distraught, or unhappy. They do not have mental illness. Intervening is highly successful and they usually return to a normal life and continue as productive citizens. You may remember my story of the young soldier I took care of who tried to kill himself with an M16 high velocity assault rifle held to his chest, held on to the trigger for 3 rounds, and survived. All the way to the hospital he told me repeatedly he wanted to die. One year later, he stopped into my office at the 7th Army Training Center in Grafenwohr, West Germany, and thanked me for saving his life. He was a proud, functional, U.S. soldier. He could have been from Maine..

Our families know us best. When we do things that are abnormal (for us), they notice it. Temporarily reaching out to us is what loving families do. This bill gives families a way to help their loved one through a tough time - and probably come out the better for it.

The availability of guns can be deadly. Those closest to a person should have a way to efficiently cut down the risk for their friend or family.

Very rarely a Maine hunter tries a "bush shoot" and finds out the noise maker was a person.

Rarely a Maine person decides to take out many people, kills many people with weapons he/she has, and then commits suicide with those weapons. This bill gives loved ones a way to protect that person by creating a way to temporarily remove the danger - the weapons. No arrests, no implying the person has mental illness, just give the person a chance to recover from the crisis and go on with his/her life.

This bill does not restrict gun ownership for law abiding citizens who want to hunt, become a marksman/markswoman, or feel they need the weapon for personal protection. This bill improves the safety of gun ownership.

Thank you for this opportunity. I would be happy to answer any questions you might have.

Allen F. Browne, M.D., FACS, FAAP, FOMA, DABOM
25 Andrews Ave, Falmouth, Maine
207-650-0349
allenbrowne@sbcglobal.net