

Senator Carney, Representative Moonen, Members of the Judiciary Committee:

My name is Betsey Ramage-Healey and I confess I was a little disgruntled at 7:15 pm on March 7 as the next to last person to testify in favor of gun safety bills . It was a long time to wait my turn. But then I realized 2 things: that you Judiciary Committee members also had to stay that long and that you listened to the overwhelming testimony about the need to strengthen the ERPO law. Which led to the creation of LD 2283 and the chance to come back today to support it.

I have 2 brief points to make :

1. Let's face it - I know, you know, we all know - that not every person in danger of harming himself or others is mentally ill. The angry spouse, the mean drunk, the impulsive teen - may need the temporary removal of access to guns ,without being mentally ill. The current focus on mental illness ignores this reality.
2. The safety of the family is of course the most important thing. Families must be able to reach out for an immediate court order, not face a prolonged mental illness assessment process. LD 2283 will provide the quickest protection from harm for families, and they are in the best position to know when protection is needed.

Thank you again for listening , and acting to protect Maine families. Please vote Ought to Pass on LD 2283.