

Testimony in Support of LD 2283
"An Act to Enact the Crisis Intervention Order Act to Protect the Safety of the Public"

Good morning Senator Carney, Representative Moonen, and honorable members of the Joint Standing Committee on Judiciary. My name is Scott Harriman, I live in Lewiston, and I am testifying in support of LD 2283, "An Act to Enact the Crisis Intervention Order Act to Protect the Safety of the Public."

About one month ago I sat in the Lewiston City Council Chambers and listened to testimony from many of the survivors of the shooting that took place in our city just over four months ago. Most mentioned how they were not the same people they were before. They mentioned the trauma that keeps them up at night and keeps them from being comfortable in public places. They talked about the number of good friends they had lost and about going to as many as seven funerals within the span of a week or two.

But the overarching theme was about how the system has failed us: "Why didn't anyone do anything?" Despite clear warning signs about the shooter's mental health, his intent to injure and kill, and his known access to weapons, why didn't anyone do anything?

They didn't do anything because we didn't have a true extreme risk protection order law in place. Maine's current yellow-flag law leaves too many opportunities for the system to break down and allow someone who is truly dangerous to fall through the cracks. If we had had a true extreme risk protection order law in place before October 25th then the shooter's family could have petitioned a court themselves to take away his guns. Instead, they had to rely on law enforcement, who had several hurdles of their own to overcome.

We saw last October what just one person falling through the cracks while also having unchecked access to guns can do to my beloved city and to our entire state. Please vote **Ought To Pass** on LD 2283. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

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