

Testimony in Support of L.D. 2283.

Good morning, Chair Carney, Chair Moonen and Members of the Judiciary Committee:

My name is Jennifer Davis and I live in Falmouth, Maine. I am submitting this testimony in support of the Crisis Intervention Order Act, L.D. 2283, because such a similar law in Massachusetts was successfully applied to my suicidal brother.

My brother, who lives in Massachusetts, has had Borderline Personality Disorder throughout much of his adult life. A few times each year he would get severely depressed, threaten to commit suicide, and be hospitalized in the psychiatric unit.

He also kept a gun in his house.

At one point his condition reached a crisis. His marriage was falling apart due to his erratic behavior, and he became so agitated that his wife became fearful of what would happen as he had access to his gun. She contacted the police, who were able to immediately get an order to take my brother's gun away, without having to find and detain him first. All of the family, including my brother, felt safer after that. Our brother no longer had a weapon available to act on his suicidal thoughts. Because the process in Massachusetts to remove his gun was fast, simple and effective, and did not require him to be found and detained first by the police, he was no longer a threat to himself or his family.

My brother has now lived long enough, with the right treatment, to become stable. The Massachusetts law made that possible. By passing this crisis intervention bill, families in Maine can be safer as well, as they would also have the benefit of a gun removal process that is fast, simple and effective.

Thank for your vote in favor of this bill.