

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

My name is Katie Winship. I am a member of The First Church in Belfast Gun Safety Work Group. My testimony is in support of LD 2283.

Since law enforcement officers are the members of our communities who bear responsibility for public safety, I believe their opinion is of utmost importance. I spoke with the Sheriff's Office of Waldo County, to ask for their perspective on LD 2283.

Key points as explained to me by an officer who has carefully reviewed LD 2283 are:

- A big positive is elimination of a psychological evaluation in an initial application of the Yellow Flag Law. While an evaluation certainly should be a part of the process, it doesn't belong in the initial temporary restriction of firearm possession. When time is of the essence, a law which allows for bringing a petition to a judge to immediately grant or deny a temporary order would save as much as six hours
- A huge benefit: a petition for a Crisis Intervention Order does NOT require a person to already be in protective custody. There are many times when the whereabouts of an individual are unknown or it would be dangerous or difficult to take them into custody. With this law the process can be initiated without having to wait to find the person. This also gives Law Enforcement a chance to relay their probable cause to a Judge for approval prior to taking action.
- Another large benefit concerns granting of search warrants for non-compliance with Temporary Weapons Restrictions.
- The provision allowing that petitions and hearings can occur either where a person lives or where an incident occurred provides another way to save valuable time with separate jurisdictions working together more efficiently.

I encourage you to thoroughly consider all these aspects of LD 2283 as they support our law enforcement officers in doing their important public safety and life-saving work for the benefit of all of us.

Thank you!