

Lianna Holden
Joint Standing Committee on the Judiciary
Testimony in Support: LD 2283, “An Act to Enact the Crisis Intervention Order Act to Protect the
Safety of the Public”
April 4, 2024

Good Morning Senator Carney, Representative Moonen, and members of the Legislature’s Joint Standing Committee on the Judiciary. My name is Lianna Holden, and as a proud member of the League of Women Voters Youth Council and the founder of the Student’s Demand Action Chapter at Freeport High School, I am here advocating for measures to address gun violence in our communities. I currently live in Lewiston.

I’m here today in support of LD 2283 and to encourage the Legislature to take action to protect our communities from gun violence.

The events of October 25, 2023, are etched into the memory of Lewiston and its neighboring towns. On that day, lives were shattered, and a sense of fear and grief enveloped our community. Like many others, I found myself glued to news updates, trying to comprehend the unfolding tragedy. I remember sitting in my room, with every curtain drawn and blind closed, desperately trying to make sense of the senseless violence that had hurt our community.

Growing up in the generation of school shootings altered the fabric of our daily lives. I know how to exit every classroom, and I know where I will go, and who I will call because I know that preparedness could mean the difference between life and death. This fear has gripped every student, underscoring the urgent need for comprehensive action to combat the epidemic of gun violence.

I was just a kindergartener when the tragedy at Sandy Hook unfolded, and I was in 6th grade when the horrors of Parkland took place. These mass shootings, which have become all too familiar in our society, represent a uniquely American experience—one that should never be accepted as the norm. The possibility of mass violence should not loom ominously over our daily lives; we deserve to live in a society with common sense gun safety measures.

I endorse the implementation of a crisis intervention order—a swift and decisive measure that has the potential to save countless lives. This proactive approach not only empowers law enforcement agencies to disarm individuals deemed a threat to themselves or others but also provides families with a crucial avenue to intervene in cases of imminent danger.

However, let us be clear: the adoption of a crisis intervention order is but one step in our ongoing battle for sensible gun legislation. We remain committed to advocating for measures that will ensure the safety and security of every member of our community. We must take this opportunity to enact meaningful change—together, we can forge a future where gun violence no longer looms over our schools, our neighborhoods, and our lives.

I encourage you to stand with me, my community, and every student who dreams of a future free from the fear of gun violence. The time for action is now, and the power to effect change rests in your hands. Let us work together to build a safer, more secure future for generations to come.