



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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Testimony of Rep. Victoria Doudera in support of LD 2283 “An Act to Enact the Crisis Intervention Order Act to Protect the Safety of the Public”

April 5, 2024

Greetings Senator Carney, Representative Moonen and distinguished members of the Joint Standing Committee on Judiciary. My name is Vicki Doudera and I represent House District 41, which includes Camden and Rockport. I am here today in support of LD 2283 “An Act to Enact the Crisis Intervention Order Act to Protect the Safety of the Public.”

Reducing access to lethal means saves lives. Exactly one month ago I stood before you to present a bill to prevent suicide, and I made the same point. **Reducing access to lethal means saves lives.** This bill, LD 2283, provides a way for families and friends to take action and reduce access to firearms if someone is at risk of harming themselves and others. It is critically important because families are the ones who spot a dangerous situation first.

Research has found that in about 80% of cases, people who commit mass shootings or suicide make their intentions known in advance to family members or friends ... or via social media.¹Families know of the danger first.

And yet Maine families who fear a deadly situation often feel powerless. They sense that police involvement might make things worse, and so they may not reach out to law enforcement. They are afraid. They live with the gut wrenching anxiety of knowing that their loved one has access to firearms, they look for ways to **remove** those firearms, and then, when that does not happen, they worry. And worry. When the very worst occurs – a murder/suicide; a suicide; a mass shooting – our Maine neighbors and friends experience helplessness and hopelessness, guilt and shame, because their family member has done the very thing they feared – the very thing that kept them awake at night. Their loved one has used a gun, or multiple guns, to destroy the lives of themselves or others.

¹ Annals of Internal Medicine, <https://www.acpjournals.org/doi/10.7326/M19-2162>

You have heard many excellent reasons why crisis intervention orders are necessary, how they work in other states, and why it is so important for Maine to pass this legislation. I will not repeat those reasons. I simply want you to imagine yourself in the position of some of our Maine families.

Imagine that you are the one trying desperately to separate a loved one from lethal means. Under this Act, you could petition for a crisis intervention order to restrain access to firearms if you suspected your family member of posing a significant danger of causing severe harm to themselves or another person. It would give you – the concerned family member - a way forward.

I support LD 2283 on behalf of my constituents and Maine families in every corner of our state. I support LD 2283 because it empowers these families – mothers and fathers, sisters and brothers, grown children and roommates – it empowers these people to play a role in preventing firearm violence by providing a tool to remove firearms from crisis situations.

We all know crisis situations exist in Maine – some very public and some very private - and we know there are people in our state grieving right now for loved ones lost to firearm violence. Please, give Maine families this important option to protect themselves, their family members, and the public by passing LD 2283.

Thank you.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Victoria W. Doudera". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal line extending from the end of the name.

Rep. Vicki Doudera