



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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Testimony of Rep. Nina Milliken presenting

LD 2238, An Act to Enact the Crisis Intervention Order to Protect the Safety of the Public Before the Joint Standing Committee on Judiciary

Good afternoon Senator Carney, Representative Moonen, and friends and colleagues on the Joint Standing Committee on the Judiciary. My name is Nina Milliken and I represent the wonderful communities of Blue Hill, Brooksville, Castine, Sedgwick, Surry and Trenton in the Maine House. I am here today to testify in support of LD2283, An Act to Enact the Crisis Intervention Order to Protect the Safety of the Public.

Last spring, I was headed with my young children to drop them off at their daycare. My route takes me up and over the Mountain Road in Blue Hill, right past the Meadow that would begin your hike to the top of Blue Hill Mountain. This spot is one where I bring my children often. It feels almost sacred to my family. I encourage you to come and take this hike. When I got to the crest of the road, I saw several police cars. I looked up toward my beautiful mountain and saw a woman lying in the meadow surrounded on all sides by State Police Troopers. I asked one officer what was happening and he responded to me "You didn't hear it? She just shot herself in the head. She is dead." I wept the rest of the way to the daycare. I have no idea who this woman was or what brought her to this beautiful place to commit suicide, but I think about her every time the Legislature ponders whether or not we should take bold steps to help our friends and neighbors safely get through an emotional crisis for themselves or for their loved ones. I wish we had taken this step before that awful day.

I am a survivor of domestic violence. I am a survivor of sexual violence. I am a survivor of a variety of violent crimes. I look forward to the day when someone says to me, "I am a survivor of having my firearms temporarily removed from my possession." This kind of pales in comparison.

I firmly believe that the Speaker successfully thread the needle of fairness. I believe the standard of "clear and convincing evidence" is the best standard to use. I appreciate greatly the inclusion of the right of the defendant to an attorney. I think that this bill is a wise decision for Maine. Please vote ought to pass on this important bill. I know that this committee has done a ton of work lately and I am grateful to each of you for your always careful consideration. I am happy to answer any questions.

Sincerely,

Nina Milliken
State Representative