

131st Legislature
Senate of
Maine
Senate District 24

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Testimony of Senator Eloise Vitelli supporting
LD 2283, An Act to Enact the Crisis Intervention Order to Protect the Safety
of the Public
Before the Joint Standing Committee on Judiciary
April 5, 2024

Senator Carney, Representative Moonen, and Esteemed Members of the Joint Standing Committee on Judiciary, my name is Eloise Vitelli, and I proudly represent Senate District 24, which includes all of Sagadahoc County and Dresden. Today I am pleased to offer testimony in support of LD 2283, “An Act to Enact the Crisis Intervention Order to Protect the Safety of the Public.”

As the Senator who represents Bowdoin, I have joined our community in grieving a quadruple homicide. In October 2023, I joined the entire state of Maine in grieving the victims of the mass shootings in Lewiston.

There have been instances, such as these, where our gun laws have not protected Mainers. That’s why it’s clear we need to examine our state laws, find the gaps in our safety nets, and do all we can to help keep people safe.

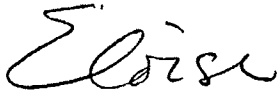
This is a crucial moment in our state’s history, and we are here to meet that moment. It will take all of us working together and listening compassionately to chart a path forward. This bill represents one step in the march toward progress.

LD 2283 would allow a person to seek a crisis intervention order for another person who is suspected of posing a significant danger or causing severe harm to the person (or another person). A crisis intervention order would restrain the purchase, possession, or control of a firearm.

Currently, only law enforcement officers can temporarily suspend the ability of a person to purchase, possess, or control a firearm. Yet, a police officer likely does not know a potentially high-risk person better than a co-worker, family member, or friend. It’s more likely that these individuals will be able to detect a change in a person’s behavior that might warrant a crisis intervention order. It only makes sense, then, that they should be able to seek this order.

For these reasons, I urge the Committee to support this bill.

Thank you for your consideration and time. At this time, I will do my best to answer any questions you may have.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Eloise". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letter 'E' being particularly large and stylized.

Eloise Vitelli
Senate Majority Leader, Senate District 24
Sagadahoc County and Dresden