



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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Senator Carney, Representative Moonen, and members of the committee:

My name is Austin Theriault, and I have the great fortune to represent House District 1 -- the Crown of Maine -- in beautiful Aroostook County. I'm here to testify in opposition to LD 2283.

First, I want to recognize for the record that the citizens whose rights would be limited by this bill are currently digging out from a snowstorm that has left hundreds of thousands of Mainers without power.

It's a shame that this hearing is being held today. Sadly, this tracks with the last-second, intentionally below-the-radar nature of the consideration of this bill.

As far as the contents of this terrible bill go:

My constituents and I do not support the concept of limiting law-abiding Mainers' Second Amendment rights, and this bill would do exactly that.

I've said many times before: We should be focused on systemic reform of our mental health system. This attempt to ram through gun control legislation pushed by powerful out-of-state interests at the last second is clearly not what Mainers want.

I think anyone familiar with our 2nd Amendment would immediately recognize the immense due process problems in this bill.

That's not fair to Mainers. Instead, there's a clear path available to us:

Let's leave the Second Amendment alone and reallocate existing spending to build out additional mental health resources and ensure the laws on the books are used as intended.

That's a path almost all Mainers can get behind.

Austin L. Theriault
State Representative