

Senator Anne Carney and Representative Amy Kuhn and all members of the Judiciary Committee...

My name is Kendra Lyman and I am here today to speak in favor of LD208 An Act to Eliminate the 72-hour Waiting Period on Firearm Purchases. I am sure over the course of these testimonies you will hear many, more qualified than myself, speak to the correlation between the mental health crisis currently facing our state and its relation to gun related violence. While I agree there is a correlation between the two I am here to offer a different perspective, one of a woman who's worked in the gun industry in rural Maine for the past 10 years.

How many of you know the Alan Jackson song, "Little Man?" This is a song I grew up listening to on the radio. Whenever it came on my Dad used to stress the importance of TRULY taking the time to listen to the lyrics. For those of you who are unfamiliar with the song, it speaks of the time when small, family owned and run businesses were common. Unfortunately, many are no longer able to survive in a world filled with large corporations and conglomerates. From a small, family run gun shop perspective, this is EXACTLY what will continue to happen if the 72-hour hold is not permanently repealed. Many small gun shops will not be able to survive the decreased volume of sales, leaving the market open for internet sales and the conglomerates. This is not only unfortunate for the consumer, but it is also a loss of revenue for a state in where hunting and outdoor sportsmanship are deeply rooted.

I also want to take a moment to speak to the most prevalent firearm purchaser demographic that I came across during my time in the industry. My little shop in Jay, Maine sold mostly shotguns and rifles. The type of firearms most prevalently used by hunters. A huge portion of my customer base consisted of sports men and women looking to fill their freezers provide for their family and pass down hunting traditions to the younger generation. Now, some of you may be saying to yourself that in today's world the need to be self-sufficient is unnecessary. There are at least one, if not two grocery stores in most towns. To those of you thinking that, I would beg you to change your mindset. We live in a time of severe economic unrest. For some, hunting is their source of meat for the season. It was always a running joke among my school friends that if we ever faced an apocalyptic event, my friends were going to seek me out because I would be able to provide and fend for myself. My Dad is one of those sportsmen I spoke of earlier. He along with my grandfather instilled in me a strong passion for hunting and fishing that I will be FOREVER grateful for. He along with so many others understood the importance of passing on the traditions and knowledge of hunting and the outdoors to the younger generation. Not only as a form of sportsmanship, but as knowledge potentially crucial to their own survival. Some of my fondest childhood and even adult memories involve hunting trips with my family in the Maine woods. In recent years I have also had the joy of building memories by participating in the Androscoggin Fish and Game Small Bore Rifle League. My Father, Grandfather, two Great-Grandfathers and two Great-Uncles participated in this club for years before I was even born. They created memories that will last lifetimes and formed treasured friendships. I was more than

honored when the mantle was passed on to myself to continue the family's tradition of participation as a member of this rifle club. My Dad and I enjoyed those Thursday night shoots and the father-daughter bonding time they created. That is especially true for Dad until I started to outshoot him. My point is,.....these are not the kind of folks looking to commit crimes with the firearms they are purchasing. They are simply Mainers trying to purchase the tools that allow them to participate in deep seeded Maine traditions. Why should they be punished for the illegal action of others?

I think it's extremely important to remember, yet is so easily forgotten, that people who want to do bad things will find a way to do it regardless of its legality. Those people have already made the decision to commit a heinous act; so adhering to whatever gun control laws are already in place is very low on their priority list. They are going to find a way to acquire the tools needed to do the job one way or another, most likely illegally to decrease the likelihood of traceability. A prime example, drugs are illegal. Yet, we still have a large percentage of people who succumb to overdoses everyday. Driving under the influence is also illegal, but how many fatalities occur every year from drunk driving? In those cases we don't villainize the vehicle, we recognize the person as the causative factor. The same thought process should be applied to gun control. These crimes and acts of violence are caused by a person, for whatever their reasons. A 72-hour wait period is not going to change their mind or sway their decision.

In conclusion, this 72-hour hold infringes on our Constitutional rights as Mainers and Americans. If this hold is not permanently repealed, it means changing the Constitution or cherry picking where those rights do and do not apply. That folks, is a slippery slope. Once the power to ignore our Constitutional rights is given and those changes start, where will they end?