

## Testimony in Opposition to LD 208

Senator Carney, Representative Kuhn, Members of the committee, I am Elizabeth Moberg, I live in South Portland and I am an artist.

I am here today to testify in opposition to LD 208, An Act to Eliminate the 72-hour Waiting Period on Firearm Purchases.

I am not here as an expert on firearms, gun safety data, or legal nuance. I'm here because I thought I was an expert on my friend Jill.

That changed when she used a gun to end her life several years ago. I never imagined she would do that. I knew that a succession of challenges in her life- chronic pain, aging, job loss, housing changes- had been mounting and she was overwhelmed. But she had friends and family. Though she was down a lot, she could rally and try to move forward. Since her death I've learned that, contrary to popular belief, suicide is not always tied to mental illness. And suicide attempts can be impulsive, one-time events, often considered over less than 24 hours. I can only guess this was the case for my friend, as I was checking in with her every couple of days, and she never let on that she considered self-harm and she had never talked about wanting to own a gun. Now I know better questions to ask, but at the time I felt she was coping.