

Testimony of David G. Fitz MD

Judiciary Committee

April 16, 2025

LD 1230 - An Act to Abolish the 72 Hour Waiting Period For a  
Gun Purchase

LD 208 - An Act to Eliminate the 72 Hour Waiting Period on  
Firearm Purchases

LD 1062 - An Act to Eliminate Background Checks for the  
Private Sales of Firearms

Senator Carney, Representative Kuhn

Members of the Judiciary Committee:

My name is David Fitz. I'm from Cumberland, Maine, where I've lived for 45 years. I'm a husband, father, grandfather, a gun owner, hunter, fisherman, and a retired surgeon.

My testimony today is in strong opposition to these bills which would undo life-saving legislation passed last year. As we all know, 72 hour waiting period laws passed in other states have been found to make a difference in suicide rates (I will quote the Rand Corporation July 2024 analysis):

"Six studies assessed the relationship between waiting-period laws and suicides. Of the three methodologically stronger studies, all found reductions in suicides or firearm suicides, and these reductions were statistically significant in two studies."

As we also know, this law is currently being challenged in court, which will ultimately decide its fate. For now waiting periods for firearm purchases save lives, and that is what is most important here.

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RE: Elimination of Background Checks for Private Sales - this is nonsensical, and if passed would put the state of Maine back into the middle of the "Iron Pipeline" of illegal firearm trafficking. Background checks make a difference in lowering violent crime rates, as also shown in the Rand July 2024 study (both in FFL dealer checks as well as private sales).

We don't need or want this bill : don't waste any time on this.

Please vote ought not to pass for all 3 of these bills. They are bad for Maine and her people.

We can do better.

Thank you

David G. Fitz MD

Cumberland, ME