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Senator Carney, Representative Kuhn and distinguished members of the Committee on Judiciary,

The Sportsman's Alliance of Maine, Institute for Legislative Action (SAM-ILA) is testifying in support L.D. 208 - An Act to Eliminate the 72-hour Waiting Period on Firearm Purchases. We would like to thank Representative Faulkingham for sponsoring this SAM-ILA bill request.

It is no secret that our organization opposed the passage of the legislation to require law abiding citizens, already vetted by the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), to wait an arbitrary time of 72 hours, to purchase a firearm. No other individual liberty mandates a waiting period to exercise a right. I was clear before this law passed that our organization would challenge this new law in court if it was allowed to pass. We fulfilled our promise. Working with our partners, within 24 hours we raised the necessary money to take this before the courts. So far, on four separate occasions, the federal courts have ruled in our favor.

Those that would like to limit the Second Amendment rights of Mainers use the courts to impose firearm regulation they know to be unconstitutional and then force groups like mine to raise and spend money and time working through the courts.

Our organization has always worked with legislators to find ways to make Maine a safer place to live. Nearly every firearm related public safety policy passed in Maine over the last two decades has flowed through our organization and they all have a common thread, they honor constitutional rights and respect individual freedom and due process. This approach has helped make Maine the safest state in the nation as it relates to violent crime.

National organizations continue to come to Maine to push a national agenda like an arbitrary waiting period. Their policies that overstep and impose on personal liberties will always be challenged. This issue is poised to go to the Supreme Court. We have money and support, and we are determined to eliminate the 72-hour waiting period.

The SAM ILA also supports L.D. 1230 - An Act to Abolish the 72-hour Waiting Period for a Gun Purchase and L.D. 1062 - An Act to Eliminate Background Checks for Private Sales of Firearms.

Thank you,

David Trahan  
Executive Director, SAM-ILA