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LD 1230

The tragedy of suicide happens in the complex interplay of many different factors. Access to firearms can be one of them.

The fact is: my friend was able to obtain a gun immediately at point of sale and use it to end her life. There was no waiting period for firearm purchases at the time. Can I be certain that 72 hours would have made a difference for Jill; that in that time she may have revealed her thoughts of suicide to someone? Honestly, I don't know. But studies suggest that waiting periods can prevent firearm suicides.

Many people know how it feels, but if you don't, I'm here to say, grieving a death by suicide feels like no other grief. I choose to believe that the 72-hour waiting period that is now the law in Maine could play a role in preventing some firearm suicides. That is why I stand before you now- in opposition to LD 208. And I thank you for listening.

For well-researched information about suicide
please see the book

Why People Die by Suicide
by Thomas Joiner