

Members of the Judiciary Committee: My name is Anne Amadon I am from Skowhegan. I am here to testify against the Extreme Risk Protection Order "Red Flag Law" referendum question.

Everyone should be in agreeance that the most important outcome when using any ERPO, is that a person who has their weapons removed, then receives the mental health care AND continued follow up needed to prevent another tragic event such as occurred in Lewiston. Yet this Red Flag Law fails to address that need.

I would like to assume that everyone who wrote and submitted this proposed law have read the Independent Commission's Final Report to investigate the FACTS of the Lewiston shooting. I know I did. Yes, it is long, it's extremely painful to read, but it was also very informative. But I have to ask, if all of them HAD read it in its entirety, we would not be sitting here now going through yet another tedious, long drawn-out public hearing for yet another unnecessary and over stepping gun bill that fixes absolutely NOTHING. One might easily conclude that their real goal is to just remove people's guns and other self-defense options because their belief is we just shouldn't have them. I will read a short conclusion of the findings of the Independent Commission's Final Report, but I urge everyone to read the entire report again:

The Independent Commission to Investigate the Facts of the Tragedy in Lewiston released its final report on the mass shootings that occurred on October 25, 2023. The report concluded that both local law enforcement and the U.S. Army Reserve failed to take necessary steps to reduce the threat posed by Robert Card before the tragic events. The commission found that there were several opportunities that, if taken, might have changed the course of the events leading to the mass shooting. The report emphasized the importance of understanding the facts and circumstances surrounding the tragedy to aid in the healing process for the state and its people.

We already have our very unique and very effective Yellow Flag Law. It has been used successfully, well over 800 times by law enforcement all over the state. We now know they simply failed to use it with Robert Card, which is tragic for everyone involved. This includes Robert Card and his family who were grossly let down by all involved prior to the horrific event.

Due Process matters to every single person. Reg Flag laws have no Due Process and leave a lot of room for wrongful accusations from angry, abusive people. It provides no provision for providing mental health care and follow up. Red Flag laws are dangerous for Law Enforcement and put them at significant increased risk. Reg flag laws are bad news for the people of Maine.