

Senator Carney, Representative Kuhn, and esteemed members of the committee. My name is Chris Campbell, and I live in Yarmouth. I respectfully testify in support of LD 1378. An Act to Protect Maine Communities by Enacting the Extreme Risk Protection Order Act.

The Lewiston mass shooting showed that Maine's "yellow flag law", was ineffective. Multiple people were close to the shooter, reported that he was in crisis, but he killed 18 people.

18

The safe schools and safe communities initiative of saving lives and keeping kids, families, and communities safe ~~be~~ is essential for the welfare of Maine citizens and especially children, who are our future.

ERPOs are about saving lives. Families and community members often know who is in crisis and a threat to others and/or themselves. ERPOs allow families and law enforcement to petition a court to temporarily restrict access to firearms by someone in crisis.

ERPOs have been proven to reduce suicides. Maine's suicide rate has increased by 41.6% in the past 20 years, compared to 30.3% nationally. Studies of Indiana's ERPOs from 2006 and 2013 found that 395 firearm removal orders were issued, and 1,079 firearms were temporarily removed. Suicidal ideation was cited as a reason for the orders in nearly 70% of these cases. Individuals in Indiana subject to orders had an annual suicide rate 31 times higher than the general population, showing the increased risk among this population. One suicide was prevented for every 10 firearm removal orders issued.

Several studies have shown that ERPOs may play a role in mass shootings. Studies of 159 ERPOs from 2016 to 2018 in California. In 21 orders, the subject showed clear signs that they wanted to commit a mass shooting and after the orders were issued, no mass shootings, suicides, or homicides occurred (Wintemute et al. (2019).