

1378

LD's ~~208, 1230 and 1062~~

Senator Carney, Representative Kuhn and Members of the Judiciary Committee:

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

I urge you to vote in favor of this proposal as written.

First, it provides an additional tool that can supplement our current yellow flag law. Under current law, family members do not have the ability to directly seek help for their loved one in crisis. The yellow flag law requires too many steps and thus is not efficient and it relies on law enforcement who are already understaffed, overly taxed in terms of efforts, under budgeted and do not have mental health training. It is not used consistently across the state.

Second, just this week a new study has been published showing that states with permissive firearm safety laws experience higher rates of pediatric firearm mortality. <https://jamanetwork.com/journals/jamapediatrics/article-abstract/2834530>. Firearms are the highest cause of death in children from ages 1 to 17. The suicide rate in Maine had gone up 41.6% in the last 20 years. <https://usafacts.org/answers/how-many-people-die-by-suicide/state/maine/>

Mainers want a true extreme risk protection order to prohibit needless deaths. Please vote in favor of LD 1378.

Thank you for your consideration.