

6/11/25

Dear Senator Carney, Representative Kuhn and esteemed members of the Committee.

My name is Bruce Moore and I live in Cape Elizabeth. I respectfully testify in support of LD 1378: An Act to Protect Maine Communities by Enacting the Extreme Risk Protection Order Act.

I support LD 1378 because ERPOs have been proven to reduce suicide, the leading cause of gun death in Maine, particularly among men. A study in Connecticut found that increased enforcement of the state's Extreme Risk law was associated with a 14 percent drop in gun suicide rates.

My best friend from college days took his own life with a firearm. He was a highly-skilled and well-educated man who over time, due to anxiety and depression, developed a substance use disorder.. He had periods of sobriety but also periods when he succumbed to substance misuse, was arrested on various charges and jailed numerous times.

He was a gun owner all his adult life. I was fearful he would harm himself because he was depressed and threatened suicide, loaded gun in hand, on multiple occasions. I was also afraid he would unintentionally harm other people when he was in pain, desperate and out of control. An extreme risk protection order may have helped save his life.

Eighty nine percent of all gun deaths in Maine are suicides and the rate of gun suicide has increased 45% from 2012 to 2021. I support this referendum bill because it will save the lives of Maine people, prevent suicides and other tragedies.

Thank you.
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