

June 11, 2025

Senator Carney, Representative Kuhn, and members of the Judiciary Committee

In support of LD1378: An Act to Protect Maine Communities by Enacting the Extreme Risk Protection Order Act

My name is Lynn Ellis and I live in Brunswick. I have been an advocate for the passage of commonsense gun safety bills since the school shooting at Sandy Hook which make this my 12th year. I am a retired social worker. I am also a representative for the Maine Unitarian Universalist State Advocacy Network (MUUSAN) who voted to keep gun safety legislation as a priority for the past two years. I hear from my colleagues and others that the passage of laws such as this one, and safe storage bills is critical to preventing gun deaths in Maine. Three mass shootings in the last few years and the continued high numbers of suicide only emphasize the need for common sense measures. Every day, on average, in this country 125 people die by gun violence and it is the leading cause of death in children. Credible sources state that it is a public health crisis in the United States with over 46,000 deaths every year.

LD1378, essentially an Extreme Risk Protection Order, seeks to protect a person from doing harm to themselves or others in a time of crisis and to petition the court to have firearms removed. This situation can happen to anyone, anywhere in Maine. Just recently, a situation arose in the senior housing building I live in. A young man, age 23 who was staying with his grandmother there became angry over a breakup with his girlfriend, and began threatening. It turned out he had a firearm and was threatening to harm her. The police were called who, as I understand it, removed the firearm for 24 hours and then he was able to retrieve it. I have no firsthand knowledge of what transpired in those 24 hours however I know that he still stays in my building. And it makes me nervous.

I'm so disheartened by the rhetoric of those who accuse me and others who advocate as I do, that we have a hidden agenda. The only agenda is to save lives.

Please vote LD1378 out of committee and vote to pass all the gun safety bills that come before the full legislature. ERPOs are a critical supplement to firearm restriction and background check laws because they provide an individualized risk-based assessment process, through the courts, to temporarily disarm people who are found to be an extreme risk of violence but who would otherwise be able to pass a background check and acquire deadly weapons.