

Dana Hunnewell
Bingham
LD 208

Chairpersons, Members of the Committee,

My name is Dana Hunnewell, and I am a resident of Bingham, Maine. I am writing in strong support of the bill that repeals the 72-hour waiting period for firearm purchases in our state.

The 72-hour waiting period is an unnecessary and ineffective barrier to the rights of law-abiding Mainers. It disproportionately affects responsible citizens who seek to purchase firearms for lawful reasons—whether for personal protection, sport, or collecting. Maine has a proud tradition of responsible gun ownership, and our citizens should not be treated as if they are guilty or dangerous simply because they choose to exercise a constitutional right.

More importantly, this law is currently being challenged in court, and Maine taxpayers are footing the bill to defend it. Taxpayer money should not be wasted defending legislation that infringes upon fundamental rights—especially when there is little to no evidence that a mandatory waiting period improves public safety outcomes in our state. It is unfair and irresponsible to continue to spend state resources fighting legal battles over a law that does not serve the public interest.

Removing this waiting period restores a sense of trust in our citizens, respects our state's values, and puts an end to unnecessary government spending. I urge you to support this bill and to stand with the responsible gun owners of Maine by repealing the 72-hour waiting requirement.

Thank you for your time and consideration.