

John Jeffers  
Owls Head  
LD 208

Testimony Before the Maine Judiciary Committee

In Opposition to Repeal of LD 208 and LD 1230: Repeal of 72-Hour Waiting Period,  
and LD 1062: Repeal of Expanded Background Checks

Testimony by John Jeffers, Owls Head

April 15, 2025

Members of the Judiciary Committee:

My name is John Jeffers and I submit testimony today as a concerned citizen, a parent, educator, healthcare provider, community member, and a strong supporter of common-sense gun safety reforms that protect lives without infringing on responsible gun ownership.

I stand in strong opposition to repeal of the 72-hour waiting period, and repeal of expanded background checks for the following reasons:

**72-Hour Waiting Period**

The 72-hour waiting period is not a denial of rights—it is a life-saving pause. It allows time for critical background checks, but just as importantly, it creates space between a moment of crisis and access to a lethal weapon. Impulsive decisions—especially during mental health emergencies—can end in irreversible tragedy. Studies show that waiting periods reduce firearm suicides and homicides without burdening lawful owners. This legislation is a necessary safeguard rooted in compassion and prevention.

I urge you to OPPOSE Repeal of the 72-hour Waiting Period (LD 208) and (LD 1230).

**Expanded Background Checks**

Right now in Maine, it is possible to purchase a firearm through private sales or at gun shows without a background check. That loophole endangers everyone. Requiring background checks for all gun sales—no matter where or how they occur—is supported by the vast majority of Americans, including gun owners. It is the most basic way to ensure that those legally prohibited from owning firearms—such as convicted felons or individuals with violent histories—cannot bypass the system. This isn't about punishing gun owners—it's about keeping guns out of dangerous hands.

I urge you to OPPOSE Repeal of Background Checks for Firearm Sales (LD 1062).

I know that no single law will prevent every act of violence. But these proposed measures are proven, practical, and constitutional steps forward. We have a responsibility to protect our communities, our children, and our future.

I urge you to lead Maine toward a safer, more responsible future.

Thank you for your time and for your commitment to public safety.

Respectfully,

John Jeffers

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