

Rev. Jill Saxby
Cape Elizabeth
LD 208

As a longtime Maine resident, pastor, parent and grandparent, I would like to register my strong opposition to LD 208. The idea of eliminating the 72 hour waiting period on firearm purchases strikes me as putting the price of possible inconvenience ahead of the value of human life. Waiting periods help prevent impulsive suicides and gun deaths in domestic violence situations. When one thinks of the waiting periods consumers of other goods accept in order to take possession of the product they want to buy -- everything from automobiles to furniture to anything one orders online to be shipped -- it seems disingenuous and illogical to object to having to wait 72 hours to either pick up or have a legally purchased firearm shipped to a gun dealer near one's home. A reasonable 72 hour waiting period law does not erode a citizen's right to buy and own firearm, any more than a six or eight week wait for a sofa to be delivered erodes a citizen's right to decorate their living room the way they see fit. As a grandparent who has watched her grandchildren grow up in Maine, in a world of active shooter drills and fear of gun violence, I can't imagine why any responsible gun owner would object to a common sense measure like a 72 hour waiting period that does nothing to inhibit their right to purchase and own a firearm. If even a few lives a year are saved, isn't it worth it? Thank you for considering my views.