

Richard Shapiro
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LD 208

My name is Richard Shapiro, and I am from Brunswick, and I'm testifying in favor of LD 208 - An Act to Eliminate the 72-hour Waiting Period on Firearm Purchases.

Please vote in favor of this proposal.

The 72 hour waiting period is unconstitutional.

Under the Maine Constitution, "Every citizen has a right to keep and bear arms and this right shall never be questioned."

Taking away the right of self defense of every single law abiding Maine citizen for 3 days on the extremely slim pretext that someone, somewhere, might change their mind and decide not to commit suicide does not pass constitutional muster, when those people being denied their right to self defense may be facing imminent threats of harm.

And, as the US Supreme Court has stated, a right delayed is a right denied.

2 levels of federal court have now upheld a rare and telling preliminary injunction against this law – and as you know, injunctions are uncommon, and only granted when such a law will cause irreparable harm ever day it is in place and it is very likely to be struck down at trial.

Any questioning or limitation on a constitutional right has to be no broader than it needs to be in order to do what it must. And, this law blatantly fails that test.

For those who would uphold such an limitation, I propose an additional law: All public statements to be must be held for 3 days lest they inflame the passions of the people unnecessarily. What – that's overbroad you say?

So is the 72 hour waiting period on firearm purchases.

Thank you.