

maryann larson  
Bangor  
LD 208

Good morning Senator Carney, Representative Kuhn and distinguished members of the Judiciary Committee. Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony regarding the 72 hour waiting period.

Given that the vast majority of deaths due to gun violence here in Maine are suicides, the waiting period to take possession of a gun seems to me a very reasonable "ask". If I purchase a gun and wait for just 3 days to take possession I may have saved someone's life. We live with all kinds of restrictions on our behaviors in a civilized society, whether that's obeying traffic signals, waiting in line to make a purchase, or smoking a cigarette in designated places. I'm sorry, but what does it say about us as a people that we have to debate this issue? We're considering a minor inconvenience vs. saving a human life.

I believe the conversation around guns in this country has been deeply skewed towards elevating gun owners' rights to the exclusion of the rights of others to simply live. I believe the right to live supersedes the right to take immediate possession of a gun, when waiting for a brief 72 hours literally might save a life.