

June 10, 2025

Testimony in Support of LD 1378, "An Act to Protect Maine Communities by Enacting the Extreme Risk Protection Order Act"

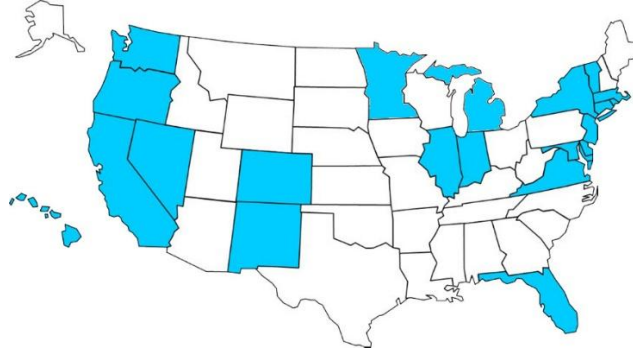
Senator Carney, Representative Kuhn, and distinguished members of the Committee on Judiciary, my name is Joe Anderson. I am a resident of Portland, a pediatric hospitalist in Lewiston, and I serve on the board of the Maine Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics. I am the founder of Maine Providers for Gun Safety, a group that I organized in November of 2023. I am also one of the five Maine voters who signed the application for this bill to be presented on the ballot as a Citizen Initiative. I am here to express our strong support for LD 1378, and ask that you vote to either support it and enact it as law, or allow it to be sent to the voters independently as a referendum question, without a competing measure.

Maine Providers for Gun Safety is a multi-specialty group of physicians, physician assistants, nurse practitioners and other advanced practice RNs formed in response to the tragedy in Lewiston calling on our elected leaders to address the gun violence epidemic and to enact comprehensive gun safety legislation. Our letter currently has over 500 signatures and is supported by the associations below:



A true Extreme Risk Protection Order would empower family members and law enforcement to petition the court to temporarily remove firearms from individuals who pose a significant risk to themselves or others. This crucial tool can help prevent suicides, domestic violence incidents, and mass shootings by temporarily removing access to lethal means during moments of crisis. By swiftly intervening when warning signs are present, ERPOs can save lives and provide individuals in crisis with the support and resources they need.

Extreme risk protection orders have been enacted in 21 states and DC, as seen in the map below. Most of these have passed in more recent years, as only 5 states had passed ERPO legislation prior to 2019.



<https://www.aap.org/en/advocacy/state-advocacy/extreme-risk-protection-orders-erpo-or-red-flag-laws/>

Extreme Risk Protection Orders have broad support from across the medical community. Most of our medical and specialty organizations have released policies or statements in support of Extreme Risk Protection Orders. These policies are not taken lightly and are based on an in-depth analysis of the available research. The following organizations that have supported Extreme Risk Protection Orders include:

- American Medical Association¹
- American Academy of Pediatrics²
- American College of Surgeons³
- American Psychiatric Association⁴
- American Pediatric Surgical Association⁵
- American College of Physicians⁶
- American College of Emergency Physicians⁷
- American Public Health Association⁸

As healthcare providers, we see this bill as a compassionate and effective way to prevent senseless loss and promote public safety in our state. **As over 80,000 Mainers have signed our petition, we urge you to allow it to be sent to the voters independently as a referendum question, without a competing measure, which would only add confusion to an otherwise straightforward proposal.** Thank you for your attention to this urgent matter.

Sincerely,



Joe Anderson, DO

Founder, Maine Providers for Gun Safety

Advocacy Chair, Maine Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics

References & Policy Statements

¹ Firearm Availability H-145.996 | American Medical Association. (2023). Retrieved April 3, 2024, from <https://policysearch.ama-assn.org/policyfinder>

² Lois K. Lee, et al., THE COUNCIL ON INJURY, VIOLENCE, AND POISON PREVENTION; Firearm-Related Injuries and Deaths in Children and Youth: Injury Prevention and Harm Reduction. Pediatrics December 2022; 150 (6): e2022060070. 10.1542/peds.2022-060070. Retrieved April 3, 2024 from <https://publications.aap.org/pediatrics/article/150/6/e2022060070/189686/Firearm-Related-Injuries-and-Deaths-in-Children>

³ Cynthia L Talley, et al. Recommendations from the American College of Surgeons Committee on Trauma's Firearm Strategy Team (FAST) Workgroup: Chicago Consensus I. Journal of the American College of Surgeons 228(2):p 198-206, February 2019. | DOI: 10.1016/j.jamcollsurg.2018.11.002 Retrieved April 3, 2024 from https://journals.lww.com/journalacs/fulltext/2019/02000/recommendations_from_the_american_college_of.7.aspx

⁴ Position Statement on Firearm Access, Acts of Violence, and the Relationship to Mental Illness and Mental Health Services. American Psychiatric Association, May 2018. Retrieved April 4, 2024 from <https://www.psychiatry.org/getattachment/8b32e119-1995-4ac6-bc66-5c3972cb221f/Position-Firearm-Access-Acts-of-Violence-and-the-Relationship-to-Mental-Health.pdf>

⁵ Bindi Naik-Mathuria, et al. (2022, June 6). APSA's Firearm Advocacy for Our Membership. American Pediatric Surgical Association. <https://apsaped surg.org/apsa-news/apsas-firearm-advocacy-for-membership/>

⁶ Renee Butkus, Robert Doherty, Sue S. Bornstein, et al; for the Health and Public Policy Committee of the American College of Physicians . Reducing Firearm Injuries and Deaths in the United States: A Position Paper From the American College of Physicians. Ann Intern Med.2018;169:704-707. [Epub 30 October 2018]. doi:10.7326/M18-1530. Retrieved April 4, 2024 from <https://www.acpjournals.org/doi/10.7326/m18-1530>

⁷ Chris Kang (2022, June 3) ACEP's stance on firearm injury prevention. Retrieved April 4, 2024, from <https://www.acep.org/who-we-are/leadership/board-blog/board-blog-articles/june-3-2022>

⁸ Gun Violence is a Public Health Crisis. American Public Health Association. Retrieved April 4, 2024 from https://www.apha.org/-/media/Files/PDF/factsheets/200221_Gun_Violence_Fact_Sheet.pdf