

Jeremy Cluchey
Bowdoinham
LD 1378

Senator Carney, Representative Kuhn, and esteemed members of the committee,

My name is Jeremy Cluchey and I live in Bowdoinham. I am testifying in support of LD 1378: An Act to Protect Maine Communities by Enacting the Extreme Risk Protection Order Act.

I am a gun owner, a hunter, and a supporter of our right to own firearms. That right also carries with it a responsibility, both for the gun owner and for those in law enforcement who must keep the public safe. It is crystal clear to me and to all who are paying attention that we need to do more to protect the public from violent individuals. This bill is an important step toward doing so.

As we have experienced tragically around the country and now in Maine, there are situations where law enforcement needs the ability to act on credible information from trusted family members and temporarily remove firearms from an individual in order to protect the public. Maine's so-called Yellow Flag law was a good start, but it has proven insufficient, and leading law enforcement officials note that it is too cumbersome to be effective on the necessary scale, especially in smaller and more poorly-resourced communities. Like dozens of other states, Maine deserves a Red Flag law.

Thank you for your consideration. I look forward to voting on this policy in November.