

Dane Courtois
Hiram
LD 1378

Dear Maine Judiciary Committee,

My name is Dane Courtois, a Mainer who will not tolerate government tyranny, and I submit this testimony to vehemently oppose LD 1378, An Act to Protect Maine Communities by Enacting the Extreme Risk Protection Order Act. This bill is a sinister assault on our freedom, a backstab to the Second Amendment disguised as concern for safety. It's a dangerous power grab that must be crushed to preserve the liberty of Maine's self-governing citizens.

LD 1378's so-called "extreme risk protection orders" are a wolf in sheep's clothing, letting the state strip Mainers of their firearms based on vague accusations and flimsy evidence. This isn't protection—it's a kangaroo court that tramples due process and the right to bear arms. The Second Amendment is an ironclad shield, not a privilege Augusta can revoke because someone whispers "risk." Empowering judges to seize guns without a fair hearing spits on our constitutional protections and paints every Mainer as a potential threat.

The hypocrisy is maddening: the state claims this will stop danger, yet it ignores actual criminals who don't obey court orders. A 2019 study from the University of California found no clear evidence that red flag laws reduce gun violence, but they do ensnare law-abiding citizens—like a mechanic targeted by a vindictive ex, a veteran misjudged for seeking therapy, or a retiree slandered by a nosy neighbor. These orders invite abuse, turning personal grudges into state-sanctioned raids and leaving innocent Mainers defenseless.

This bill also burdens Maine's working people. Legal battles to reclaim seized firearms cost time and money, draining the wallets of those who can least afford it. Small businesses, like local gun ranges, face the fallout when customers are unjustly disarmed, hurting Maine's economy for no gain. Freedom shouldn't be a luxury, nor should our rights be held hostage by fearmongering.

As a libertarian, I demand a government that respects our sovereignty, not one that plays judge, jury, and executioner. Our founders armed themselves against tyranny, not gossip. Federal courts are dismantling these red flag schemes for their constitutional rot—Maine must not fall into this trap. LD 1378 is a betrayal of our heritage and a threat to our future.

I call on you to obliterate LD 1378. Defend our right to bear arms without fear of state overreach and keep Maine a stronghold of liberty. Thank you for considering my testimony.

Yours in freedom,

Dane Courtois
Hiram Maine