

Julie Keller Pease
Topsham
LD 1378

To the esteemed members of the Judiciary Committee:

My name is Dr. Julie Pease. I am a psychiatrist and I have practiced in Maine since 1987.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify in strong support of LD 1378, An Act to Protect Maine Communities by Enacting the Extreme Risk Protection Order Act.

Evidence from states with red flag laws, has shown a significant reduction in suicides by firearms:

Everytown Research & Policy found that Connecticut saw a 14% reduction in the firearm suicide rate, and Indiana saw a 7.5% reduction.

A study found that one suicide was averted for every 17 ERPOs issued.

Regarding Mass Shootings:

One study in California found that the state's ERPO prevented 58 potential mass shootings. Another study of six states with ERPOs found that 10% of all orders were filed in response to threats of mass violence, preventing more than 650 potential incidents.

Red flag laws are much more straightforward. They do not require the involvement of a mental health professional. In addition they do not discriminate against or stigmatize people with mental illness, who are NOT found to have a risk for violence that is greater than the general population.

Thank you for your time and attention to this important issue.