

Erik Perkins
Mattawamkeag
LD 1378

Honorable Members of the Judiciary Committee,

My name is Erik Perkins and I live in Mattawamkeag. I oppose LD 1378. The conditions in section 2244.1.B 1-3 for petitioning for an extreme risk protection order are already covered under Maine law by assault, battery, and terrorizing. A person who does these things should already be in jail or under a psychological hold. The standard required for the ERPO, a preponderance of evidence (i.e. 51% sure), is low, typically used in civil cases. LD 1378 is a proposal for a criminal statute - the standard of evidence must be higher; this is basic civics.

I was living in Santa Barbara when Elliot Rodger stabbed three of his roommates to death and shot several others. California subsequently enacted the first red flag law. This law apparently didn't have much of an effect on the shootings in Gilroy or Thousand Oaks. It did, however, produce an extreme chilling effect on me, compelling me to never mention my favorite hobby, precision target shooting, to anyone I didn't completely trust.

ERPOs, however noble their underlying intent, are poor public policy with a high potential for abuse. LD 1378 ought not to pass.

Thank you.