

Richard Shapiro
Brunswick
LD 1378

My name is Richard Shapiro. I live in Brunswick, and I am testifying in opposition to LD 1378 - the "Red Flag" order bill.

Please vote against this proposal.

Maine has a "yellow flag" law – that was successfully been used 580 times just between October 2023 and January 2025. Yet, the opposition calls it weak and ineffective.

As CBS news put it, the Yellow Flag law is like a Red Flag law, but has a couple of extra steps involved.

Those extra steps are why the out of state gun control lobby passionately hates the Yellow Flag law. What are those extra steps? They are a sanity check. They are a bare minimal due process.

And, that due process is why the Moms Demand Action and other out of state funded gun control groups want it gone.

As with all legislation, to fully understand a bill, it has to be looked at in terms of intent and side effects. And, given the existence of Maine's "Yellow Flag" law, that intent can only be to strip gun owners of due process, to facilitate disarmament with NO sanity check, with no notice, and, sadly, with no protection against malicious targeting.

Let's not forget that a gun confiscation under the "Yellow Flag" law is an orderly and safe process, while a confiscation under a "Red Flag" law is often a violent 3AM invasion of the home of an armed person who may have been maliciously targeted. Police will die. Innocent citizens subject only to an ex-parte hearing have already died from "Red Flag" raids, and more will die needlessly.

"But, the Yellow Flag law didn't stop the Lewiston shooting!" That's the rallying cry of the Bloomberg funded gun control lobby. Yes – the police dropped the ball and badly.

I would like to remind the committee that a Red Flag law wouldn't have worked either, had the police dropped the ball in the same way.

That's not the fault of the law. That's the fault of the police. And, they've learned that lesson. Use of the Yellow Flag law is up 1500% in the year and a half since the Lewiston Shooting.

The Yellow Flag law is being used effectively.

Using the failures of the police and the US military as leverage to destroy a working law and spit on the due process rights of gun owners is despicable. Again, please oppose this bill.

Thank you.