

Janice Vance  
Kennebunk  
LD 1378

Dear Sen Carney, Rep Kuhn, and members of the committee, my name is Janice Vance and I live in Kennebunk. I cannot attend in person today, but I would like to go on record as being in support of LD 1378: An Act to Protect Maine Communities by Enacting the Extreme Risk Protection Order Act. As you probably know, twenty-one other states have a similar law on the books, including Connecticut, Vermont, Rhode Island and Massachusetts, all states with comparatively low rates of firearm deaths. An ERPO law would have allowed the family of the man who murdered 18 innocent people in Lewiston to get help before this tragedy occurred. ERPO laws help prevent mass shootings and domestic violence murders, and in Maine, I believe having one would help bring down our gun suicide rate, which is much higher than the national average. I have an old friend and a family member who both lost spouses to gun suicide, years ago, before their states enacted ERPO laws, and there was nowhere for those women to go when their husbands were threatening harm to themselves. Both men died at young ages, and left behind small children. One killed himself on Christmas Eve and the other killed himself in front of his wife and little boy. I don't want to see similar tragedies happen to others. An ERPO law will help.