



Maine Municipal
Association

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Testimony of the Maine Municipal Association

In Support Of LD 1312

An Act Regarding Access to Firearms by Extremely Dangerous and Suicidal Individuals

April 22, 2019

Senator Carpenter, Representative Bailey, members of the Judiciary Committee, my name is Garrett Corbin and I am offering this testimony in support of LD 1312 on behalf of the Maine Municipal Association at the direction of its statewide Legislative Policy Committee.

While the municipal officials who comprise the Association's Policy Committee are highly cognizant of the importance of the Second Amendment, they believe it is also a matter of significant importance to recognize the threat posed to the general public by persons who are likely to wield their firearms in an unsafe manner. This threat can no longer be overlooked and must be addressed. Less than four full months into 2019, ninety (90) mass shootings have already occurred in the United States.¹

The common rebuttal to efforts to impose restrictions on firearm possession is that efforts must be made to address unsafe owners, not access to the firearms themselves. LD 1312 does not restrict anyone's ability to lawfully acquire a firearm. Rather, this proposal authorizes judges, who have already been entrusted by the state with the discretion to impose limitations on a wide variety of personal rights in the interest of protecting the rights of others, to issue an "extreme risk protection order" under limited circumstances. The judge's finding of probable cause that the individual poses an immediate and present danger of causing bodily injury is necessary to issue the order, and any firearms surrendered pursuant to the order must be returned to the person when the order expires.

Striking the appropriate balance between the right of persons to bear arms and the right of persons to be free from fear, trauma and homicide when they are working, in school, or out shopping, is a delicate matter. Municipal officials believe LD 1312 achieves this balance.

¹ As reported by the Gun Violence Archive at <https://www.gunviolencearchive.org/reports/mass-shooting>.