

TO: The Honorable Joseph Baldacci
The Honorable Michele Meyer
Members of the Committee on Health and Human Services

DATE: March 7, 2024

RE: LD 2238 - An Act to Address Gun Violence in Maine by Requiring a Waiting Period
for Certain Firearm Purchases

Good morning Senator Baldacci and Representative Meyer,

My name is Gianna Barbieri and I am a resident of Cape Elizabeth. I am testifying Ought to Pass on LD 2238. Firearms mark the leading cause of both homicide and suicide. This bill, if passed, could prevent impulsive acts of gun violence, through the three-day "cool off" period. Studies have estimated that waiting period laws such as this one can reduce firearm suicide rates by 7–11%, and homicides by around 17%. As a student, it is impossible to simply ignore the threat of gun violence when it is taking the lives of children my age every single day. With the imminence of this threat rising, it feels like a matter of time before a gun is the reason that I lose someone I care about. To have gone to school during a time where fire drills were more relevant than learning how to protect yourself in case of a shooter, is a luxury that today's youth do not have. LD 2238 preserves the second amendment right to own a gun, while also keeping Mainers safe. Even if just one life is saved because of this bill, it will be worth all of the inconvenience for people who have to wait seventy-two hours to have possession of a firearm.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.