



To: **Joint Committee on Judiciary**
100 State House Station
State House, Room 438
Augusta, ME 04333

Re: **LD 1230 – An Act to Abolish 72-hour Waiting Period for Gun Purchases**

Position: **Support**

Date: **April 1, 2025**

Honorable Members of the Joint Committee on Judiciary,

My name is Fred Bird, and I am the Manager for the Northeastern States for the Congressional Sportsmen's Foundation (CSF). I respectfully urge you to support LD 1230. The current 72-hour waiting period creates a biased barrier on the hunting and sporting community alone; no other outdoor sporting traditions are subjected to such biases. Such barriers can create unintended consequences that directly affect wildlife management funding and participation in Maine's sporting traditions, a major economic driver in the Pine Tree State.

Founded in 1989, CSF is the informed authority across outdoor issues and serves as the primary conduit for influencing public policy. Working with the Congressional Sportsmen's Caucus (CSC), the Governors Sportsmen's Caucus (GSC), and the National Assembly of Sportsmen's Caucuses (NASC), CSF gives a voice to hunters, anglers, recreational shooters, and trappers on Capitol Hill and throughout state capitols advocating on vital outdoor issues that are the backbone of our nation's conservation legacy.

Sportsmen and women have been a driving force behind ensuring the integrity of lawful firearms ownership is maintained. Under federal law, Federal Firearms License holders are required to perform a Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) National Instant Criminal Background Check System (NICS) check on the firearms purchaser/transferee prior to the transfer of a firearm. The sportsmen's community was the primary driver of critical legislation at both the state and federal levels to ensure the NICS process is as effective as possible by incentivizing states to provide accurate and updated records of prohibited persons to the FBI.

Along with supporting strong background check processes for FFLs, for more than 85 years, sportsmen and women have been the primary funders of state-level conservation efforts in Maine and are thus an important constituency that provide benefits for all of Maine's residents. Enacted in 1937, the Pittman-Robertson Act redirected previously existing manufacturer-level excise taxes

on firearms and ammunition to a dedicated fund to be used specifically for wildlife conservation purposes. These critical conservation dollars fund a variety of efforts including enhanced fish and wildlife habitat and populations, recreational access to public and private lands, shooting ranges and boat access facilities, wetlands protection and its associated water filtration and flood retention functions, and improved soil and water conservation – all which benefit the public at large, not just sportsmen and women. The 72-hour waiting period on the transferring of a firearm is a slight to the many benefits provided by the sporting industry.

Not only is the possession of firearms protected under the Second Amendment, but it is also engrained in our nation's cultural fabric. Sportsmen and women in Maine have been at the forefront with offering improvements towards determining one's eligibility in purchasing a firearm, but the current 72-hour waiting period was not a constructive route to take, it's immediate abolishment would prevent the aforementioned obstacles and potential losses. The recent establishment of a 72-hour delay creates a uniquely biased hurdle on the hunting and sport shooting communities – a barrier levied on no other outdoor user experience.

In recognition of the positive bearings and improvements for the primary funders of conservation in the state, CSF stands in firm support of LD 1230. Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on this issue. Should you require additional information on this, or other sportsmen-related topics, please feel free to contact me at any time.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Fred Bird', with a large, sweeping flourish underneath.

Fred Bird
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