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Testimony in Opposition

LD 1454, An Act to Prohibit Untraceable and Undetectable Firearms LD 976, An Act to Amend the Definition of “Machine Gun” to Include Bump Stock Devices

Presented by David Trahan, Executive Director of SAM-ILA

May 3, 2021

The honorable Senator Deschambault, Representative Warren, members of the Criminal Justice and Public Safety Committee, my name is David Trahan, I am the Executive Director of the Sportsman’s Alliance of Maine Institute for Legislative Action testifying in opposition to LD 1454, An Act to Prohibit Untraceable and Undetectable Firearms and LD 976, An Act to Amend the Definition of “Machine Gun” to Include Bump Stock Devices.

First, LD 1454, An Act to Prohibit Untraceable and Undetectable Firearms.

This legislation is currently before the U.S. Congress and will likely be heavily debated as the new President Biden Administration has made it a high priority policy. Any time an individual state passes legislation that would be more practical and enforceable as a Federal policy, it makes it far more difficult for law enforcement and firearms owners to comply. We hope the committee with defeat this bill and allow the Congress to act first, one way or the other.

Second, LD 976, An Act to Amend the Definition of “Machine Gun” to Include Bump Stock Devices.

Recently, under ex-President Trump’s ATF, (Alcohol Tobacco and Firearms) further regulated bump stocks, much like is being proposed in this bill. The bump stock regulation was challenged in Federal Court and initially ruled un-Constitutional, <https://thefederalist.com/2021/03/26/federal-appeals-court-rules-trumps-bump-stock-ban-is-unconstitutional/>.

We believe this bill is premature as this ruling is being appealed and will likely end up in the Supreme Court. We hope the committee will allow that process to finish before leaping forward with a bill that may be un-Constitutional.