

8 May 2023

Testimony of Peter S. Morgan, Jr.  
before the Maine Criminal Justice and Public Safety Committee,  
in SUPPORT of **LD 1340** - *An Act to Prohibit the Sale or Possession of Rapid-fire Modification  
Devices*

Distinguished members of the Criminal Justice and Public Safety Committee, my name is Peter S. Morgan, Jr. I am a resident of Raymond, Maine since my retirement in 2015. I'm a Coast Guard active duty veteran who served from 1969 to 1973, who received an honorable discharge upon my release.

I have seen the progression of gun violence. Our two sons were in a Philadelphia suburban high school at the time of the 1999 Columbine High School massacre. That was an unusual occurrence two decades ago.

It is not happenstance that mass shootings began to occur with an astounding regularity following the expiration of the assault weapons ban in 2004. There is an undeniable correlation.

In my opinion we have lost the essence of "a well regulated militia." Presumably, if we had to join one to own a gun, there wouldn't be such a prevalence of mass murders. ( My military experience illustrated what "well regulated" means. ) Ask yourselves if gun owners are required to undergo training or demonstrate relevant firearms knowledge.

Advances in weapon technology since adoption of the second amendment to the Constitution require a reassessment. There has been a prohibition of machine guns, to prevent the general population from having more effective weapons than law enforcement. Currently, that imbalance presents itself with rapid-fire, military style weapons.

For the benefit of our communities; please recommend LD 1340 "ought to pass."