

Suzanne Merkelson  
Portland  
LD 1340

Testimony of Suzanne Merkelson before the 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 Suzanne Merkelson and I am a resident of Portland and a new mother of a 5 month old, Simon. I am, frankly, terrified for him to start school in a few short years. Rapid-fire modification devices make our communities less safe. Guns equipped with bump stocks were used in the largest and deadliest mass shooting in modern American history in 2017 in Las Vegas, in which 60 people were shot and killed and hundreds more were wounded. These weapon accessories serve no other purpose than to increase the rate of fire to maximize the number of dead and wounded. My fear is that it's only a matter of time before such a massacre occurs in our state. You have an opportunity to make children like my son safer in their schools, on our roads, and in any and all public places.