

Elizabeth Carlson  
South Portland  
LD 1340

Testimony of Elizabeth Mitchell 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 Elizabeth Carlson and I am a resident of South Portland. When I drove past exit 15 on 295 to see a car riddled with bullet holes and armed officers casing the woods due to an active shooter I instantly thought of my son and friends and a need to confirm their safety. While they were safe at daycare in Portland, not in Yarmouth, was little comfort knowing of the multiple school shootings that occur in otherwise “safe” communities. That weapons of mass murder are legal in this country allows for this most primal fear that our children and their caregivers could be shot to death to have merit.

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. These weapon accessories serve no other purpose than to increase the rate of fire to maximize the number of dead and wounded – this is not necessary for any sport or hunting.

Thank you for your time and consideration. This is not a matter of freedom – the freedom to own guns is not at question here, it is a matter of safety and common sense.

Sincerely,  
Elizabeth Carlson