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My name is Eric Johnson, I am a retired Coast Guard Captain, with more than 36 years of active duty service and I possess a Doctoral degree in Public Policy. We have lived in Kennebunk, Maine, since 2015. I enlisted in Portland, Maine in 1987 and maintained my Maine residency status for most of my military career.

I am vehemently opposed to any legislation that infringes on the Second Amendment to the Constitution of the United States. Our right to keep and bear arms is inalienable and the State is violating the ratified Constitution of the United States by attempting to infringe upon our right to keep and bear arms. Members of the legislature who support this effort are in violation of their oaths to support and defend the Constitution. The government does not 'grant' rights to us.

Additionally, this is a bad policy action. Governor Mills and her supporters are attempting to pass this legislation out of ineptitude and lack of understanding that passing legislation in haste, reacting to crises, is a recipe for disaster. This is simple vote pandering and will have no impact on gun violence. Members supporting this effort are simply preying upon the emotional reaction to gun violence and not doing anything to actually deter it. Enforcing criminal statutes and penalizing offenders more harshly is a better course of action.

In fact, there is absolutely no way to measure any deterrent effect that this legislation is hoped to have, as I'm sure everyone realizes, there is no way to prove a negative (e.g., one cannot disprove the existence of the Loch Ness Monster, thus one cannot prove that a crime did not occur as a direct result of a regulation being in effect). One CAN, however, prove that an individual who commits a crime cannot commit another one whilst in prison (or after being executed, if applicable).