

Brennen Smith  
Bangor  
LD 1109

I would like to address the egregious law being proposed regarding magazine capacity restrictions. I believe this is a terrible affront to the Constitution and the 2nd amendment. This is a knee-jerk reaction to the terrible Lewiston shootings and an attempt by politicians to limit our freedoms by magnifying a problem that doesn't exist.

First and foremost, 30 rounds is standard for a majority of AR magazines in free states like Maine, New Hampshire, and a majority of states in our Union and worldwide. In England, where most firearms are prohibited already, stabbings are more common. A heart that wishes to kill will kill, regardless of the limits placed on them. These laws only prevent law abiding gun owners from exercising their God-given rights to freedom and self-protection in whatever manner we see fit.

The second amendment was not written after our Founding Fathers got done hunting. They just got done beating the British Army off their land using militias and civilians with military-grade hardware at the time. Rifles existed (albeit rare), civilians had artillery, and guns capable of discharging multiple rounds quickly (like the puckle gun or Belton Flintlock) existed during and before the American Revolution. In fact, before the Continental Army was formed and supplies bought from France, the US Army was pretty much all organized militia using their own muskets. The Founding Fathers were not worried about limiting the people's right to the type of arms the people could have, rather limiting the government's attempts at forcibly taking those rights away. The second amendment was written to ensure We The People can maintain a status of independence from any who attempt to abuse us, which includes our own government.

The point of the 2nd amendment was that civilians can the same equipment as the government...plain and simple. The 2nd amendment isn't limiting the people, it's limiting the government. This bill is an infringement.

Furthermore, a magazine restriction would not stop anybody with evil intentions from acquiring such devices. New Hampshire is a free state, and the ability to freely buy magazines in NH would immediately nullify any attempts at limiting those who wish to cause Mainers harm. Criminals do not follow laws. Heroin is illegal yet people still acquire it somehow. A criminal heart will not be concerned with laws. If they can't get a firearm then they'll use a knife, or bomb, or chemicals, or vehicles. Someone intent on causing mass destruction will find a way. The only difference is if we the people have the ability to defend ourselves against it should we come face to face with it.

The responsibility of the Lewiston shooting falls on two people. The person who committed the act, and the governmental and Law Enforcement organizations who had all the time and cause to use existing yellow flag laws to legally take his firearms and get him the help he'd been asking for before this shooting occurred. This is a failure on our government, not the people. I will not be punished for the Government failing to follow it's own rules. Further, the amount of law enforcement agencies present for that event in Lewiston was a shameful embarrassment on the capabilities of our LE response. 300+ officers to find one man, who was dead, in an area LE cleared once or twice already. This is gross incompetence on the part of LE agencies. There were also reports of chaos as LE personnel self-attached themselves to the event and did not coordinate with the incident commander. This is shameful.

This is all a political power grab and an attempt to limit the lawful rights of Mainers. You use a tragedy that could've been avoided with the laws already on the books and are trying to use it to force your agenda down our throats.

Truth be told, if this sort of thing happens again we already know Law Enforcement will be mostly useless, and with the LE shortage already it'll leave the rest of Maine with very little protection since LE will be converging on the event. Response times

are bad enough already. People need a way to defend themselves. 30+ round magazines might mean the difference between a family living or dying to a group of home intruders. We've seen the start of coordinated robberies in other states where groups of 20+ storm a store or business to loot them. It's only a matter of time before large groups break into houses.

This bill Ought Not to Pass. Conditions of the heart cannot be regulated into submission. A heart that wishes to kill will find a way, and magazine restrictions will do nothing to that effect. Thank you.