

Michael Parker  
Strong  
LD 1109

To the Honorable Members of the 132nd Maine State Legislature:

I urge you to vote Ought Not to Pass on LD1109, "An Act to Reduce Gun Violence Casualties in Maine by Prohibiting the Possession of Large-capacity Ammunition Feeding Devices". I write to you as a taxpaying citizen of the State of Maine who cannot believe the extreme changes being proposed to our great state based on single-party rule in Augusta. Laws such as this are clearly based on partisanship rather than rationality, and have been for a long time.

I believe in the safe handling, storage, and use of firearms for self-defense and hunting. I understand that many believe that banning the ownership of STANDARD CAPACITY magazines ('high capacity' is not correct) would somehow enhance public safety. This has been shown to be nothing more than an anti-2nd Amendment talking point with no substance, time and time again. These magazines are STANDARD on millions of firearms, and were found to be 'in common use' by the courts. Further, during the commission of crimes using rifles - the vast majority of firearms which have a greater than 10 round capacity - that capacity did not in a meaningful way determine the lethality of the encounter. Factor in that rifles are used in crimes only approximately 500 times per year, in a nation of 350 million people, and this proposal seems both arbitrary and capricious. A taking of freedom with no social benefit. Again, it's simply ideological, and another chip at our rights. I don't see urgent action on medical malpractice (100,000 deaths/yr), and little on drug enforcement (another 100,000 deaths/yr). I see partisanship. It's there in our state constitution: our right to keep and bear arms "shall never be questioned".

As the state becomes less safe due to a variety of public policy factors outside the scope of this discussion, I find it interesting and telling that the Legislature would wish to take up bills limiting the freedom of the law-abiding to protect their families.

Bans on ammunition capacity have done far more to create criminals out of ordinary citizens than to enhance safety in any real way. It is highly likely that SCOTUS will come to find the banning of Standard Capacity magazines to be unconstitutional and presents an infringement to the citizen wishing to exercise her rights - or worse, would make her a criminal simply for owning the standard magazine that she purchased as part of her firearm. See Heller, Bruen for more. Once again - criminals don't obey these laws, will always be able to get what they want, and the only ones who lose rights and freedoms are us, the law-abiding taxpayers.

Please vote OUGHT NOT TO PASS on LD1109.

Thank you.

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