

Derek Clary
Harrison
LD 1109

Good Morning honorable members of the judiciary.

My name is Derek Clary, a resident of Harrison, and I stand before you today to express my opposition to LD 1109 which seeks to limit ammunition magazines to 10 rounds. I urge you to reject this proposal based on evidence from states with similar laws showing no meaningful reduction in gun violence.

Data from Other States:

1. California (2000–Present):

- California banned magazines holding more than 10 rounds in 2000. Despite this, firearm homicides *increased* from 3.4 per 100k in 2000 to 4.2 in 2020 (CDC).
- High-profile mass shootings, such as San Bernardino (2015), involved illegally modified magazines, demonstrating criminals' disregard for capacity limits.
- A 2019 RAND Corporation study found "inconclusive evidence" that magazine restrictions reduce mass shootings or violent crime.

2. New York (2013 SAFE Act):

- New York's 7-round limit (later amended to 10) saw no statistically significant drop in firearm homicides post-2013. Upstate counties showed variable trends, aligning with national declines unrelated to the law.
- New York City's homicide rate (already declining) fell by 4% in 2014, mirroring trends in states without such laws.

3. Federal Assault Weapons Ban (1994–2004):

- The federal 10-round limit showed no measurable impact on gun violence, per a 2004 National Research Council report. Homicide rates declined nationally during this period due to broader societal factors.

4. Colorado (2013):

- After adopting a 15-round limit, Colorado experienced the 2021 Boulder shooting, where the perpetrator used a 10-round pistol. This highlights that determined attackers adapt, while law-abiding citizens are hindered.

Key Arguments:

- Ineffectiveness: Criminals bypass restrictions through illegal modifications or non-compliance. For example, 77% of criminals incarcerated for gun crimes acquired firearms illegally (DOJ, 2016).
- No Impact on Mass Shootings: FBI data (2014–2021) shows states with magazine limits had similar per-capita mass shooting rates as those without.
- Maine's Low Crime Rates: Maine's firearm homicide rate is 1.3 per 100k (CDC, 2020), far below the national average. This law risks burdening responsible owners without addressing root causes of violence.

Addressing counter arguments:

Proponents claim high-capacity magazines increase casualties. However:

- A 2020 "Journal of Injury Epidemiology" study found no significant difference in fatality rates between attacks with large vs. standard magazines.
- Self-defense scenarios, in which firing 8-15 rounds are typical (DOJ), could be jeopardized by arbitrary limits.

Conclusion:

Magazine restrictions fail to enhance public safety while infringing on constitutional rights. I implore you to focus on evidence-based solutions—mental health support, enforcement of existing laws, and community programs—rather than ineffective mandates.

Thank you for your thoughtful consideration on this matter.

Sources:

- CDC WISQARS Database
- RAND Corporation, "The Effects of Gun Policies" (2020)

- National Research Council, Firearms and Violence (2004)
- FBI Uniform Crime Reports
- DOJ, Source and Use of Firearms Involved in Crimes (2016)