

Betsy Williams  
Brunswick  
LD 677

Senator Carney, Representative Kuhn and distinguished members of the Judiciary Committee,

My name is Betsy Williams, I live in Brunswick and I am writing in support of LD 677, An Act to Update the Statutory Definition of “Machine Gun” and Prohibit Possession of a Rapid-fire Device.

This is a deja-vu moment for many of us who testified for the so-called “bump stock” prohibition contained in last session’s LD 2086. I’m tempted to simply repeat what I said in that testimony because it’s all still true and will forever be true. There is no place in civilized society for legitimate use of weapons equipped to kill large numbers of people in a short period of time. From President Donald Trump in his 2018 ban, to the National Rifle Association’s 2017 announcement of support for tighter restrictions after the Las Vegas mass killing, to our own legislature’s attempt in 2024, public policy makers know this to be true.

So why are we back here today? Because Governor Mills vetoed the bill last year citing, and I quote, “I am concerned about the novel language this bill contains...and the risk of unintended mistakes.” Can you imagine a single “unintended mistake” of an ambiguous definition that trumps intended mass murder?

I want to thank Senator Carney and co-sponsors of this bill for answering that rhetorical question “no,” and crafting a new bill with unambiguous language to address the governor’s concern. I hope the rest of the Judiciary Committee will join Senator Carney in bringing this new bill to the floor with a strong Ought to Pass vote that the Governor won’t veto.

Thank you.