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LD 1109

Hello,

My name is Aidan Foss, I am a registered democrat in the state of Maine, and I am part of a generation born into an era of rampant gun violence. I do not remember a time before mass shootings. I do not remember a world before going to school carried a risk of death. You might think this would make me anti-gun, but I can assure you I am quite the opposite. LD 1109 is a bill that only hurts law abiding citizens without tackling the root cause of gun violence.

The Maine State Government needs to focus on promoting legislation that gets at the root cause of this violence: mental health. It does not take years of education and training to see that Americans are hurting right now. Our most vulnerable populations including youth, veterans, the LGBT community, and minorities are consistently becoming disenfranchised by systems that no longer support them and are prone to extreme instances of mental health related violent outbursts. Although these acts of violence are disproportionately committed with firearms, they have nothing to do with the size of the magazine or the type of firearm. There are plenty of examples of countries who allow their citizens to own firearms without magazine capacity restrictions and have substantially lower gun violence rates. The difference? These countries provide for the social welfare of their citizens, including their mental health.

Magazine capacity restrictions only prevent law-abiding gun owners from having the necessary tools for defense or for sport. The fact of the matter is that these restrictions have been proven to have little effect on the rates of gun death as the majority of gun deaths are the result of suicide. If you want to reduce gun deaths, focus on providing care to your most vulnerable. Less than 10% of all gun related deaths are the result of "assault weapons" with standard capacity 30-round magazines.

I ask you now. Are you really willing to waste the time, energy, and resources of this state to enforce a law that provides no real practical benefit to the majority of Mainers? Would these efforts and funding not be better spent on bills that would provide equal access to mental health services that are consistently being cut across this country? Criminals will always be able to get their hands on standard capacity magazines whether you like it or not. Focus on the things this government can control instead of placing another restriction over Mainers.