

Richard Shapiro
Brunswick
LD 677

Dear Committee Members, my name is Richard Shapiro.

I live in Brunswick, and I am testifying in opposition to “LD 677 An Act to Update the Statutory Definition of "Machine Gun" and Prohibit Possession of a Rapid-fire Device”

Please vote "Ought Not to Pass" on this proposal.

This proposal repeats last year’s ill-conceived proposal that was appropriately vetoed by Governor Mills.

This proposal makes no legal, safety, or ethical sense, as it pointlessly tries to define “machine gun” more broadly than Federal law does.

And, in doing so, it’s impermissibly vague. The random included prohibitions – which were clearly compiled by people who have no idea how a gun works, what a machine gun actually is, or whether any such modification would make such a modified weapon more effective in the real world, appear to be a laundry list of anything that modifies how the human body interacts with a firearm or with a firearm’s trigger.

The modifications banned here do not make guns more lethal or more effective in the real world.

Given the constitutional scrutiny to which any infringement on our constitutional rights should be subject to, this apparent “throw anything against the wall and see what sticks” approach is morally repugnant.

This ban is not based on any threat to public safety, but on a cultural impetus to squeeze the gun community as much as possible – as if the 2nd Amendment and the 16th section of the Maine Constitution define some kind of second class right, to be circumscribed in any possible way, without rhyme or reason.

Federal law already covers the definition of “machine gun” – that’s worked in Maine for close to a century. Maine, and our law abiding gun owners, ought to be respected far more deeply than they are by this bill.