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LD 1109

I am writing to express my opposition to LD 1109 An Act to Reduce Gun Violence Casualties in Maine by Prohibiting the Possession of Large-capacity Ammunition feeding devices. This bill would subject a person to up to 364 days in jail and a \$2,000 fine for possessing a device that has always been legal in the State of Maine. Even possession of the magazine without a firearm carries the same penalty and each magazine would be a separate offense. Based on data from United States census and the 2021 National Firearms Survey from Georgetown University it can be estimated that there are over 1 million of these devices in the State of Maine. Why do the sponsors of this bill believe that drastically leaping to a class D offense for possession is even remotely reasonable considering the long history of legal ownership and the large number of people that would be subject to prosecution?

This bill characterizes magazines that hold more than 10 rounds as “Large-capacity” when they are actually standard capacity magazines. Some States with magazine bans define “large capacity” as more than 15 rounds and other states define it as more than 20 rounds so the definition is completely arbitrary. Most police carry some model of semi-automatic handgun which normally holds more than 10 rounds of ammunition for their self defense. Why would the sponsors of this bill want to put law-abiding citizens in prison for choosing to defend themselves with the same tools that police departments routinely offer as standard issue? If more than 10 rounds are never needed for self defense then why are law enforcement officers exempt from this bill?

LD 1109 is not a magazine ban in the sense that the prohibition on possession is universally applied to all people in Maine. LD 1109 specifically exempts law enforcement and members of the national guard. LD 1109 does not even offer offer a grandfather provision for current owners or to compensate a gun owner for their property. This bill offers nothing but Draconian punishment for non compliance even though these devices have always been legal to own in Maine. LD 1109 is just another attempt at civilian disarmament and ought not to pass.