

Dane Courtois  
Hiram  
LD 1109

Honorable Members of the Judiciary Committee,

I submit this testimony as a Mainer unrelenting in my defense of liberty and the Second Amendment, demanding that you strike down LD 1109 with the disdain it deserves. This preposterous bill, aiming to ban “large-capacity ammunition feeding devices,” is a grotesque overreach—an assault on our natural rights, a mockery of Supreme Court precedent, and a betrayal of the Second Amendment’s core purpose: to arm the people as a militia against all threats. Maine’s legacy of freedom hangs in the balance, and this travesty must be stopped dead in its tracks.

We are a state of rugged independence—hunters in Penobscot, tradesmen in York, families in Waldo standing tall. Since 2015, constitutional carry has honored our right to bear arms without groveling for state approval. Yet LD 1109 lurches forward, targeting “large-capacity” magazines with a definition so nebulous it’s an open invitation to tyranny. This isn’t safety; it’s the government peddling our rights back to us, presuming to limit how we defend ourselves. Who sets the bar? Some desk-bound lawmaker who’s never stared down a danger in the North Woods or a dark alley in Bangor? The arrogance is staggering, and the premise collapses under its own weight.

The Second Amendment isn’t a suggestion—it’s a command: “A well regulated Militia, being necessary to the security of a free State, the right of the people to keep and bear Arms, shall not be infringed.” This is about us, the citizens, armed as a militia to repel invaders, criminals, or despots—foreign or domestic. The Supreme Court cemented this in *District of Columbia v. Heller* (2008), ruling that the Second Amendment protects an individual right to bear arms for self-defense, unconnected to militia service alone. Then *New York State Rifle & Pistol Association v. Bruen* (2022) drove it home: restrictions must align with historical tradition, not modern whims. Where’s the colonial precedent for banning magazine size? Nowhere. LD 1109 flouts both decisions, stripping us of tools—like high-capacity magazines—vital to that militia role, leaving us outgunned when it matters most.

The bill’s so-called justification—“reducing gun violence casualties”—is a sham that doesn’t survive a glance at reality. Maine’s crime rate is the envy of the nation; in 2023, we had more snowmobile wrecks than shootings. Our law-abiding gun owners, many with 30-round magazines, aren’t menaces—they’re sentinels. An armed populace deters chaos; a logger in Skowhegan or a clerk in Saco with a robust mag signals that Maine won’t roll over. Look at states like Wyoming—free of this lunacy, armed to the hilt, and still peaceful. *Heller* and *Bruen* back this: the right to bear arms means the right to bear effective arms, not neutered relics. LD 1109 defies that logic, hobbling us while our sheriffs in vast Lincoln or Oxford counties race against time. This legislation is a disgrace, punishing the upright while criminals sneer and stock up. Permitting was a racket, making us buy our rights; now LD 1109 doubles down, gutting the very gear we need to stand as a militia. It’s a power play draped in fake virtue, and it laughs in the face of *Heller* and *Bruen*’s clear mandates.

I call on the Judiciary Committee to obliterate LD 1109. Maine’s might rests in its free, armed citizens—don’t let this absurd bill cripple us. We are the militia, upheld by the Constitution and the Supreme Court, and we’ll keep our arms as intended: unbowed and unrestrained. Scrap this travesty and defend our liberty. Thank you for your serious consideration.

Sincerely,  
Dane Courtois