

Alan Greenberg
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LD 1109

Dear Panel Members.

I would like to address one bill, then speak in general,
re: LD 1109 Prohibiting large capacity ammunition feeding devices.

To my knowledge Maine has unfortunately had one mass shooting. This was caused by a mentally disturbed person. He wasn't a criminal until the shootings. It's possible the tragedy may have been prevented if the doctors treating the person, placed him on a temporary psychiatric hold, or if the police hadn't stopped their search for him.

However, the rifle magazine capacity had nothing to do with what happened. The shooter could have had twenty, ten round magazines for a total of two hundred rounds. What would have changed? Sadly nothing.

I'd also like to make a note of this. The police aren't restricted to magazine capacity. The Maine State Police sidearm is a HK45 LEM. It uses a 45 caliber cartridge. The LEM refers to a trigger adjustment, which is also legal for non police officers to have. This pistol magazine capacity is only 10 rounds, because the cartridge is significantly larger than the more common 9mm. An officer could, if allowed, use an extended magazine to increase capacity, but that would be cumbersome to use.

My question is this, why aren't the police restricted to magazine capacity? Are their lives more important than the rest of society? I believe all our lives are equally important. Therefore, shouldn't law abiding firearms owners be allowed to use high capacity magazines, to defend themselves if necessary? I know people who live in states with magazine capacity restrictions. Their solution, carry multiple magazines. Therefore, restricting capacity will have no effect on criminal activity.

There is a non official FBI 3-3-3 rule. Most gunfights are 3 seconds long, at 3 yards or less, and three shots are fired, by I assume by each person. However, go online and you can watch many videos of police and others, doing what's called mag dumps. That's firing all your rounds, then reloading another magazine, and possibly emptying that one to. This demonstrates the reality, of why magazine capacity limits should never be imposed on law abiding firearms owners.

In summation, you can pass all the restrictions you want on law abiding firearms owners. You can instantly turn them into criminals with a new law. Exactly what effect will that have on real criminals? The answer is none, and you know that. However, if any new firearms restrictions are put into law, it will be announced how much safer we all are. That won't be true and you know it. You'll intentionally be stating a false claim.

What's needed is affordable and more accessible mental health care. We need to enforce the laws that are already in place. Harshly penalize the criminal use of firearms. Stop blaming, and trying to restrict the rights of law abiding firearms owners. Direct your time and energy at the criminal.

Thank you for your time relating to this important subject.

I am a Registered Nurse.