

Senator Carney, Representative Kuhn, and esteemed members of the Committee on Judiciary,

My name is Grace Leavitt. I live in Raymond. I am a recently retired educator after over 43 years in the classroom. I am writing in support of the following:

LD 677, “An Act to Update the Statutory Definition of ‘Machine Gun’ and Prohibit Possession of a Rapid-fire Device,” and

LD 1126, “An Act Requiring Serial Numbers on Firearms and Prohibiting Undetectable Firearms,” and

LD 1109, “An Act to Reduce Gun Violence Casualties in Maine by Prohibiting the Possession of Large-capacity Ammunition Feeding Devices”.

Before I was able to sit down to write this testimony, yet another tragic act of gun violence causing multiple deaths and many injuries was in the nightly news. Granted, it was not in Maine —this time. But as we know all too well, it could happen here. It has happened here. My sincere hope is that it does not take another horrific incident in our state before we make more progress on common sense gun safety legislation. We are already hearing that there is an increase in reports of shootings and of gunshots in our state. We can do better.

We know that passing these three proposals can’t guarantee that there is not another mass shooting here in our beautiful state. But they will go a long way towards helping to reduce the possibility of such a tragedy happening again, as well as help reduce the potential for other acts of gun violence.

Please vote ‘ought to pass’ on these three proposals. We can and must do what we can to reduce the possibility of needless tragedies and prevent the senseless loss of lives.

Thank you.

Grace Leavitt
Raymond, Maine