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LD1109: An Act to Reduce Gun Violence Casualties in Maine by Prohibiting the Possession of Large-capacity Ammunition Feeding Devices

Please vote “ought not to pass” for this proposal.

To the Honorable Members of the 132nd Maine State Legislature:

I write to you as a young man and recent summa cum laude graduate of the University of Maine system. I have hopes to spend my life and labors here in Maine but now find my future in this state questionable by the proposition of LD1109. This proposal, if passed, would raise significant issues for responsible gun-owning Mainers.

This proposal seeks to make criminal those who already possess such so-called “large-capacity ammunition feeding devices,” as there is no grandfather clause built into it. I have never even been issued a speeding ticket yet this proposal would make myself, and many other responsible and law-abiding Maine citizens like me, subject to a Class D crime as a result of exercising my right to bear arms – protected by both the Second Amendment to the US Constitution and Article 1, Section 16 of the Constitution of the State of Maine.

LD1109 represents a significant cost to responsible gun owners who would each be expected to discard their already owned magazines, the cost for which can reasonably be assumed to total hundreds or even thousands of dollars. This assumed cost, per gun owner, for previously owned magazines accumulated over many years does not consider the cost of replacing previously owned magazines with new ones in compliance with this proposal. LD1109 would also create a high demand in the state for ten-round magazines, from which a shortage would likely result, and thereby interrupt the rights of Mainers to bear arms.

This proposal also calls into question the ability of one to defend oneself and/or innocent third parties when multiple attackers are involved. Additionally, assailants under the effects of narcotics are reported to experience an increased ability to withstand bodily trauma, and without the training for precision shot placement as afforded to law enforcement, a self-defense shooting consisting of these variables can easily require more than 10 rounds to stop all imminent threat(s).

Article 1, Section 16 of the Constitution of the State of Maine states that “Every citizen has a right to keep and bear arms and this right shall never be questioned.” This proposal very much questions this right and would cause significant harm to a great many Mainers.