

May Whelan
Bristol
LD 1109

Sen. Carney, Rep. Kuhn, Members of the Judiciary Committee,

My name is May Whelan. I am a 21-year old Bates College student in Lewiston, Maine. I write today in support of LD 1109, prohibiting rapid-fire devices and machine gun conversion devices that render guns more lethal.

I'm not writing today with a sob story about gun violence's impact on me, nor do I write to recount the events of October 25th, 2023. Each of you know the devastation wrought on the great state of Maine that evening.

Instead I write to you to express the numbness that has befallen my generation. We no longer live in fear of gun violence, we accept it as reality. We no longer lay awake at night wondering if a shooting will happen, we wonder when the next one will occur. With each tragedy, we grow more weary and less fearful. But this numbness does not render us complicit. My generation will continue to fight to ensure that our children and grandchildren don't experience the numbness that comes from repeated acts of senseless violence on our peers and family members. I write to you today as part of that effort.

A common misconception about gun control advocacy is that all of us seek to abolish hunting, secure permits, and recreational gun use entirely. That is not the case, and it never was. When we support legislation such as LD 1109, we push Maine away from the undue creation of weapons of mass destruction. Though sensible legislation, we can shield the next generation of Mainers from the irreversible numbness that gun violence has perpetuated.

Thank you for your consideration,
May Whelan