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March 25, 2025

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

Senator Carney, Representative Kuhn, and distinguished members of the Committee on Judiciary, my name is Joe Anderson. I am a resident of Portland and I serve on the board of the Maine Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics. I work as a Pediatric Hospitalist in Lewiston, and in the aftermath of the 2023 mass shooting, I also founded the group Maine Providers for Gun Safety. I am writing today to express our support for LD 677. **We ask that you vote Ought to Pass on this bill.**

This bill has two important functions. First, it would align Maine statutes with federal law, allowing state law enforcement agencies and prosecutors to enforce the possession of machine gun conversion devices currently outlawed by federal law. Second, it would fill in the gaps and prohibit possession of any device that can greatly accelerate a semiautomatic gun's normal rate of fire, or even turn it into a fully automatic firearm.

There is no legitimate reason for peaceful individuals to possess these devices, which effectively put machine guns into the hands of private citizens. Given that these types of devices have only been around since the early 2000's, they do not represent the storied “Maine tradition of responsible gun ownership.”

Sadly, our country has already seen the horrific carnage such devices can create. The 2017 mass shooting at a Las Vegas music festival is the deadliest shooting by a lone gunman in US history. All 14 of the AR-15 rifles found at the scene were fitted with bump stocks, which allowed for over 1,000 rounds of ammunition to be sprayed into the crowd in about 10 minutes, killing 60 people and wounding over 400 others.

The American Academy of Pediatrics supports evidence-based and common-sense gun safety legislation that can help address the epidemic of gun violence – now the leading cause of death for children and teens in the United States. We believe this legislation meets that goal.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I apologize for not being able to testify in person and would be happy to attend the work session if you would appreciate our input.

Sincerely,

Joe Anderson, DO, FAAP
Advocacy Chair, Maine Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics
Founder, Maine Providers for Gun Safety