

River Weinstock
Starks
LD 1109

Esteemed Committee members:

I am writing to express that I am against this proposed bill as it aims to strip Mainers of their constitutionally protected right to bear arms. I live in a rural area where if I need to protect myself and my household a sheriff would take a minimum of 45 minutes to arrive, that is assuming they are not busy assisting anyone else that day. Rural Mainers understand that the right to bear arms can be a matter of life or death in the case of large animal attacks or armed robberies. I do not feel safer knowing that if a moose were to attack me in the woods this body has determined I cannot carry a large-capacity magazine to defend myself with. Would you be willing to bet your family's lives that five bullets is sufficient to protect them from a bear attack? I am sympathetic that this bill aims to reduce gun violence casualties within Maine, however, Maine statistically does not have a significant amount of gun violence compared to the number of gun owners. Moreover, the mass shooting done by Robert Card would not have been prevented by this bill as it has exceptions that would have allowed him to possess large-capacity ammunition feeding devices. The very goal of this bill is defeated by such a carve-out. This shooting would have been prevented entirely if the military and police had listened to his family members, colleagues, and his own concerns regarding his mental health. Mainers do not deserve to be stripped of their constitutional rights over a systemic failure of the police and military.