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Hello Committee.

The exemptions in this Bill for Law Enforcement and members of the Armed Forces shows a dereliction of responsibility by the Maine Government, the Army, the Police, and a willingness to punish law abiding Citizens.

Less than two years ago, the tragedy of the Lewiston Shooting, on October 25, 2023 occurred and this bill creates language for Armed Forces Member and law enforcement exemption, including the Army, who is directly responsible for their failure to follow up on concerns about 40-year-old Robert Card's mental health. That failure by the army and local police lead to the killing 18 people and wounding 13 others.

Those very same police and Military who have exemptions both failed to respond to concerns about Robert Card. I will also note that it was not Police who ended Cards rampage either, so the exemption is certainly not due to their particular effectiveness in responding to that crisis.

This Bill makes no mention of a process to hold the Army at all accountable, so I am not sure how it can be argued that these magazines are too dangerous for the general public, but not too dangerous for Military or Law Enforcement.

This Bill would actually only disarm the general public while still allowing a tragedy like Lewiston to occur again.