

Griffin Johnson
Mechanic Falls
LD 1109

Comments and concerns relative to LD No.1109 H.P. 728

Dear Judiciary Committee,

I am here to express the strong opposition to any actions or efforts to limit or regulate the capacity of any firearm magazines, ammunition feeding devices, or anything of the sort pertaining to firearms. I suspect it will set a dangerous precedent moving forward with gun control that's easy to waive off now, but later becomes a steady erosion of the freedoms we once knew.

Research conducted by the CDC as well as Urban Institute has shown that the restriction or regulation of magazine or ammunition feeding device capacity did NOT reduce crime rate. In fact, the federal "Assault Weapon Ban" of 1994-2004 had little to no effect on gun violence deaths, not to mention the violent crime rate fell by nearly 21% despite the expiration of the "Assault Weapon Ban" in 2004. A study by the National Institute of Justice found data shows that "relatively few attacks involve more than 10 shots fired", and that studies on the numbers of shots fired "show that assailants fire less than four shots on average." That's less than the capacity of a revolver. A comprehensive study held by the CDC in 2003 looked at 51 studies covering "the full panoply" of gun control including the "Assault Weapon Ban", and was unable to show that the "Assault Weapon Ban" and its magazine capacity limitation had reduced crime.

Criminals won't care about the bans, measures or restrictions. Each restriction we create and implement promotes an opposite avenue for criminals to get around them while simultaneously making it harder for honest citizens to obtain such items. These types of legislation turn tens of thousands of law-abiding citizens into criminals overnight. Limitations on magazines or ammunition feeding devices will penalize legal and responsible gun owners, whether they're hunters, home defenders, or recreational shooters, while doing little to nothing to stop real violent crime. I believe we need to look at the root issues for why gun violence occurs instead.

If the intention of this bill is to collect and properly dispose of such magazines or ammunition feeding devices, there will be a cost in dollars associated. Where will the funds for such measures be expected to come from? Will we be paying our own government to confiscate what we have already lawfully purchased? How would such a measure be effectively and cohesively implemented? What assurances are in place to ensure this program would be conducted as intended?

I encourage you all to think deeply about what I've stated here today, and I urge all of the representatives and anyone who votes on this bill to be firm on our constitutional rights to defend ourselves and our homes, and to our pursuit of liberty and happiness.

Respectfully and cordially,
Griffin Johnson
Mechanic Falls 3/25/25

Citations:

<https://www.congress.gov/117/meeting/house/112672/documents/HHRG-117-JU08-20210520-SD016.pdf> additional citations contained

<https://legislature.maine.gov/doc/9050> Article 1 Sec.16