



*Maine Gun Safety Coalition Testimony in SUPPORT of LD 1109 - An Act to Reduce Gun Violence Casualties in Maine by Prohibiting the Possession of Large-Capacity Ammunition Feeding Devices*

Senator Carney, Representative Kuhn, and esteemed members of the committee. My name is Nacole Palmer, and I serve as executive director of the Maine Gun Safety Coalition. I am respectfully asking this committee to vote Ought To Pass on LD 1109 - An Act to Reduce Gun Violence Casualties in Maine by Prohibiting the Possession of Large-Capacity Ammunition Feeding Devices

In the Lewiston massacre of 2023, the shooter used multiple 25-round magazines, enabling him to fire 54 rounds in two minutes<sup>1</sup>. As you know, 18 people were killed in minutes and 13 injured. Our state will never be the same. That these easily purchased accessories make shootings considerably more deadly is reason enough for Maine to take steps to limit their use, possession, and purchase in our state. We have experienced enough heartache and trauma. It is time for our lawmakers to pass a ban on large capacity magazines, which have resulted in a 50% reduction in mass shootings in the states where they have been passed.<sup>2</sup>

The fact is that shootings with higher fatality counts involve large capacity magazines (LCM's)<sup>3</sup>, which means that Maine can reduce the lethality of future mass shootings, should they occur, by passing a ban on these accessories. Given that Maine already has limits on the capacity of magazines for hunting<sup>4</sup>, there is precedent. And in the words of the lifelong hunter Max Zachau, who spoke so frankly on January 3, 2024 in the rally that over 1,000 Mainers participated in at the State Capitol: "The fact that we give a flock of ducks a better chance of surviving when someone wants to shoot them than we give a classroom full of kids or a store full of people tells me that our regulatory system is woefully inadequate." Indeed.

Mass shootings involving LCMs are much deadlier than those not involving LCMs<sup>5</sup>, averaging 12 deaths per incident as compared to five deaths in shootings without LCMs. Incidents involving LCMs also result in 23 average injuries per incident, versus just two injuries in

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.maine.gov/icl/sites/maine.gov.icl/files/2024-08/Final%20Report%20Of%20The%20Independent%20Commission%20To%20Investigate%20The%20Facts%20Of%20The%20Tragedy%20In%20Lewiston.pdf>

<sup>2</sup> <https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/epdf/10.1111/1745-9133.12487>

<sup>3</sup> <https://publichealth.jhu.edu/2021/policies-that-reduce-gun-violence-restricting-large-capacity-magazines>

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.maine.gov/ifw/docs/24-MDIFW-1-HUNTING-LAWBOOK-2024-25.pdf>

<sup>5</sup> <https://everytownresearch.org/mass-shootings-in-america/>

shootings without LCMs. Because LCMs allow shooters to fire continuously, they limit opportunities for victims to escape<sup>6</sup> or for law enforcement to intervene.

Some unexpected outcomes of LCM bans include protecting law enforcement and reducing the flow of illegal firearms. LCM laws reduce illegal firearm trafficking across state lines<sup>7</sup>, preventing LCMs from flowing into Maine from states without LCM restrictions.

- Firearms that accept LCMs account for 22%-36% of guns recovered by police after crimes (often referred to as crime guns) and are used in approximately [40% of crime gun](#) cases involving serious violence.
- LCMs are used in 41% of mass shootings and killings of law enforcement officers.

Fourteen states and Washington D.C. have LCM bans<sup>8</sup>, and the constitutionality of these bans has been upheld in courts. A federal appellate court upheld Washington, DC's high-capacity magazine ban<sup>9</sup> and the Washington State Supreme Court upheld their state's LCM ban<sup>10</sup> against legal challenges.

**Supporting Research & Evidence:** Large capacity magazines (LCMs) are ammunition-feeding devices that hold more than 10 rounds, allowing shooters to fire multiple rounds without reloading. This capability increases the speed and continuity of gunfire, making firearms more lethal in mass shooting events. Research conducted over the last two decades suggests that [state-level LCM restrictions](#), when fully implemented, are highly effective at reducing firearm deaths.

- LCMs have a direct impact on mass shooting lethality—research shows that limiting access to LCMs has the [most significant protective effect](#) on reducing fatalities in mass shootings.
- States with LCM restrictions have [lower rates of mass shootings](#) than states without the restrictions.
- A study on mass shootings that occurred over a 33-year period found that states with LCM prohibitions had nearly [50% fewer](#) mass shootings as compared to states without LCM prohibitions.
- [From 2021 to 2024](#), there were a total of 605 mass shooting incidents that occurred in states with LCM bans as compared to 1,345 mass shootings in states without LCM bans.
  - During this same period, 603 victims were killed and 2,457 people were wounded in mass shootings in states with LCM bans. In states without LCM restrictions, 1,417 victims were killed and 5,659 people were wounded.

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<sup>6</sup> <https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/epdf/10.1111/1745-9133.12487>

<sup>7</sup> <https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/full/10.1111/1745-9133.12485>

<sup>8</sup> <https://everytownresearch.org/rankings/law/high-capacity-magazines-prohibited/>

<sup>9</sup> <https://www.washingtonpost.com/dc-md-va/2024/10/29/dc-high-capacity-magazine-ban-upheld/>

<sup>10</sup> <https://statecourtreport.org/our-work/analysis-opinion/washington-supreme-court-hears-challenge-ban-large-capacity-magazines>

- In states that have adopted similar laws (such as New York, Rhode Island, Delaware, DC, Hawaii, and New Jersey), LCM owners have been able to comply with the law.

On behalf of our coalition representing thousands of Mainers and 70 organizations that are part of our coalition, I urge you to vote Ought to Pass on LD 1109.