

8 May 2023

Senator Beebe-Center, Rep. Salisbury and members of the committee.

I am here today to support an Ought to pass for LD 1103.

No person should have their rights restricted just for using something that is considered legal for use in our state. That right is not restricted for any other legally used drug, many of which are far, far worse.

I am also here to request an Ought not to pass for LD's 1011 and 1340.

LD 1101 turns victims into criminals for exactly what reason? Most every person that is the victim of a robbery already reports it, why the added threat of criminal convictions and the stress and anguish that goes with that? This is another useless law that turns ordinary people into criminals.

LD 1340 is an attempt to make federally legal accessories into illegal ones. Why? There are no known crimes being committed in Maine with these and they have been owned and used by residents here for decades with no problem. As an instructor I use a binary system for training students. Why are we inventing more ways to send the people of Maine to jail and putting permanent criminal records on people that have done nothing wrong or hurt anyone else?

Both laws are just more "Keep up with the Jones's" law imported from other states by out of state influences funded mostly by a single person. Why? Because these proposed laws are not about gun safety, they're about gun control and there is a huge difference.

I am a retired US Army Veteran, a nationally accredited instructor and an IFW, Maine instructor for firearm safety. When the proponents of these laws are drafting them, they never, ever consult with people like me before submitting them. Why not? I am the person these laws will turn into a criminal. They treat us like an enemy when we're all trying to achieve the same goal. Having a safe, nice place to live and work in.

I am not the enemy, quit treating me like one. If you would just talk to me, you would find I'm actually quite likeable and able to carry on a debate or discussion with a respectable amount of knowledge about this subject. I'm more than willing to share that knowledge and experience, I will however request that the discussion be based on facts and stay civil and that it be about solutions and not just feelings and emotions. Those two things are lousy reasons to restrict other people's rights by passing laws that don't really address or have any effect on crime or criminals.

Respectfully,

Bruce Ashmore

Sgt USA Ret.

Bucksport ME