

Distinguished members of the Criminal Justice and Public Safety Committee, my name is Isa Morton and I am a resident of Falmouth. I stand before you today as: A mother. A wife. A sister. A daughter. An auntie. A friend. A fellow community member. And a deeply concerned citizen.

As a concerned citizen, I urge you to support LD 1340 An Act to Prohibit the Sale or Possession of Rapid-fire Modification Devices.

I care about this issue because this bill will help protect Mainers by prohibiting common, easy-to-obtain conversion devices that significantly increase the rate of fire of semi-automatic firearms, approximating machine gun fire.

In 11 minutes, the Las Vegas mass shooter shot over ONE THOUSAND bullets. 11 minutes. Killing 58 people and injuring nearly 500 others. Thirteen of the rifles he used were outfitted with rapid-fire modification devices.

I attended last month's public hearings regarding the arming of teachers and security officers in our schools. Supporters of those bills, of which I also strongly oppose, spoke to the precious first moments of a mass shooting and how, due to geographic limitations and staffing, law enforcement cannot often ~~not~~ get to schools within less than 10 minutes. So I ask those supporters who want to arm our educators, imagine the risk that not prohibiting rapid-fire modification further introduces... the deadly release of thousands of bullets in such a short time frame.

For years, manufacturers have created devices and attachments like bump stock, trigger cranks, and binary triggers that dramatically increase semi-automatic firearms' rate of fire, allowing them to mimic machine gun fire.

These modifications turn a semi-automatic firearm into a machine gun. So, instead of one round being discharged from a firearm with the single pull of the trigger, when the switch is installed onto a firearm, we are now talking about 1,200 rounds with the single pull of the trigger within a minute.

One thousand, two hundred bullets with just one pull.

These weapon accessories serve no other purpose than to increase the rate of fire to maximize the number of dead and wounded.

Many responsible Maine gun owners report that they do not want to own or use bump stocks. Including responsible hunters in our great state.

By passing this bill, Maine is ensuring that common conversion devices that significantly increase a firearm's rate of fire are prohibited by state law.

Please - I urge you to help to keep our communities safe by voting to support LD 1340. Weapons of war do not belong on our civilian streets or land.

With my remaining time, I would also like to express my support of LD 1011 An Act Requiring the Reporting of Stolen Firearms.

I am here to support this bill because gun thefts occur in staggering numbers. Hundreds of thousands of guns are stolen every year, taken from houses, vehicles, and stores.

Gun thefts often divert guns into an underground market where people with dangerous histories are easily able to obtain firearms without restriction. That is why stolen guns are often recovered at crime scenes, including at the scenes of homicides and other violent crimes.

Please do your part in keeping our communities and Maine's future safe by voting to support LD 1011 and LD 1340. Thank you for your time today.