

March 25, 2025

Good morning Senator Carney, Rep. Kuhn, and honorable members of the Judiciary Committee. My name is Nick Loscocco.

I am here today to testify in opposition to LDs 677, 1109, and 1126, and in support of LDs 953, 424, 829, 1049, and 998.

I have a degree in criminology with a focus on community violence. There are criminologists and violent crime experts across the county proposing sound, root-cause mitigating policy strategies to reduce violent tendencies in individuals and instances of violence in communities. Most of these proposals stem from socio-economic indicators such as low income, gender and race wage gaps, access to affordable healthcare (including mental/emotion health), rural vs. urban differences, education levels, etc. These folks and their suggestions continue to be ignored in favor of cheaper, band-aid solutions like magazine restrictions which have nothing to do with community violence and do not actually address any underlying causes of violence nor individual violent behavior.

As some lawmakers oppose shifting spending from things like the DOC and law enforcement to affordable healthcare or other public assistance, and others propose further restricting the rights of responsible firearm owners, we keep finding ourselves in this push and pull dynamic where nothing useful gets accomplished because nothing useful is actually being proposed. The research is available. I urge those on this committee, and those advocates on the other side of this issue who are truly concerned with rates of violence to seek it out. And if you search with an objective lens, you will find that almost none of the research indicates restricting responsible gun owners nor their weapons/accessories of choice. Firearms are indeed a TOOL used for violence, but they are NOT the CAUSE of violence.

In conclusion, not only are the firearms restrictions being proposed today contrary to the United States, and the Maine State constitutions on their face, but they are not indicated by the majority of criminological research on the etiology of violence. I urge this committee to vote ought not to pass on any further firearm restrictions, especially magazine capacities and "rapid fire devices." Instead look to root cause solutions to the issue of violence in our communities.