

Senator Carney, Representative Kuhn and members of the committee.

My name is Roy Hitchings and I live in Camden, Maine. I am testifying in favor of two pieces of legislation that will improve public safety:

1) **LD 677** An Act to update the definition of a “machine gun” and to prohibit possession of a rapid-fire device

2) **LD 1109** “An act prohibiting the possession of large capacity magazines and ammunition feeding devices”

I am a Vietnam veteran and have fired many different kinds of semi-automatic and fully automatic weapons of war such as the M16A1 and the M60 and 50 caliber machine guns while training and serving in the U.S. Army. The rapid rate of fire of machine guns makes them incredibly deadly, and they should only be in the hands of key law enforcement and the military. Rapid fire devices such as bump stocks, and machinegun conversion devices such as auto sears and switches, have been used in mass shootings across the country, including in New England. Some of these devices enable a shooter to fire up to 1,200 rounds per minute. Couple these rapid-fire guns with large capacity magazines (LD1109) and you have a shooter with overwhelming fire power. It’s a killing machine. There is no legitimate civilian use of these machine guns. LD 677 clearly and accurately defines what “machine guns” and rapid-fire device are and prohibits them.

I spent most all of my career working in not-for-profit hospitals here in Maine and New England. I strongly believe that Gun Safety is a major public health issue.

Please pass LD 677 and LD 1109.

Thank you. Roy Hitchings Camden 3/26/25