

Senator Carney, Representative Kuhn, Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of proposals to make Maine safer. I'm Mark Segar, resident of Freeport, retired school administrator.

Like some others of you, I've sat with grieving parents, hoping to comfort the inconsolable after a family member's been lost to gun violence.

Like some of you, I've stood on this capitol's grand staircase - after yet another gun violence tragedy - with high school students filling stair after stair, with outrage in their eyes and tears on their cheeks.

Like some of you, I've listened on the lawn just east of us here, to a neighbor's young daughter demanding something better than repeated attacks on schools and other community institutions.

"We deserve a safe and happy childhood" she proclaimed. "We are trying to empty a bathtub with a spoon while the tap is running, and no one thought to turn off the tap?"

I believe that each of these bills will increase safety for Maine children, for all of us. Incremental, perhaps, but essential, lawful, and humane.

\*I support LD 677 because it will help prevent conversion of guns into rapid-fire machines designed to maximize damage and death.

\*I support LD 1126 because it will extend requirements for serialization to all firearms and prohibit possession of devices designed to evade detection.

\*I support LD 1109 because it will help reduce the ability to inflict multiple casualties in a single moment.

LD 677 is in keeping with long-standing prohibition of machine guns, and includes essential updates.

LD 1126 will apply the same standards of record-keeping to new kinds of weapons and components, supporting law enforcement and public safety.

LD 1109 will reduce risks and mitigate carnage, with key exemptions.

The sponsors have developed these bills with care, awareness, and common sense. They clarify individual responsibility without impinging on personal rights. And they provide important protections for community rights.

In a great state, citizens deserve both.

Respectfully submitted, Mark Segar. March 26, 2025