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Testimony in SUPPORT of:

- **LD 677, An Act to Update the Statutory Definition of "Machine Gun" and Prohibit Possession of a Rapid-fire Device**
- **LD 1109, An Act to Reduce Gun Violence Casualties in Maine by Prohibiting the Possession of Large-capacity Ammunition Feeding Devices**
- **LD 1126, An Act Requiring Serial Numbers on Firearms and Prohibiting Undetectable Firearms**

Senator Carney, Representative ~~Bebe Rebozo~~^{Kuhn}, and Distinguished Members of the Joint Standing Committee on Judiciary,

My name is Madeleine DesFosses, and I am testifying on behalf of the Maine Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics (Maine AAP). The Maine AAP is a membership organization of 300 pediatricians and subspecialists across the state dedicated to protecting the health and lives of Maine children and adolescents. We are in strong support of LD 677, LD 1126, and 1109 which will help to prevent firearm related injuries and death among Maine youth.

Firearm prevention is a top priority for our members, as firearm-related injuries are the leading cause of pediatric deaths in the US (1). These legislative measures have direct implications for pediatric health and safety in our state, and we urge you to consider their impact on Maine's most vulnerable population—our children.

Support for LD 677

Despite what the National Rifle Association tells us, there is such a thing as common-sense gun reform that protects kids and allows firearms to be owned for recreation, hunting, and self-defense. However, rapid fire devices have no place in self-defense or recreation, and only exist to cause harm and injury.

LD 677 seeks to prohibit devices that enable semi-automatic firearms to mimic the rapid fire of automatic weapons. The increased lethality of such weapons has been demonstrated in mass shootings, where high rates of fire result in more fatalities and injuries in shorter periods. States with stronger firearm laws have lower rates of firearm-related pediatric deaths (2). Some of our members who work in emergency departments have witnessed firsthand the devastating effects of gun violence, with higher-caliber, high-velocity injuries causing irreversible trauma in young bodies. Eliminating access to rapid-fire modification devices is a crucial step toward reducing the severity of firearm-related injuries and deaths among children.

Support for LD 1109

Large-capacity magazines serve no purpose in responsible gun ownership and instead pose a grave threat to public safety, particularly to children. Mass shootings are often perpetuated by the availability of these magazines, allowing for dozens of rounds to be fired without the need to reload. LD 1109 prohibits purchase, possession, and transfers of ammunition feeding devices that hold more than 10 rounds of ammunition. Studies show that limiting magazine capacity can reduce the number of fatalities in mass shooting events (3).

Support for LD 1126

Without serialization, firearms are virtually untraceable, making it difficult for law enforcement to track the origins of weapons used in crimes—including those involving minors. A 2021 report found that nearly 24,000 ghost guns were recovered by law enforcement between 2016 and 2020 (4). Requiring all firearms to be serialized would enhance accountability and aid public safety.

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There is no single solution to end gun violence. Instead, legislation like LD 677, LD 1109, and LD 1126 work together to prevent gun violence and keep our children and communities safe. We urge you to vote 'Ought to Pass' on these bills.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Madeleine DesFosses

Advocacy and Public Health Manager, Maine AAP

References:

1. Cunningham, R. M., et al. (2022). "Firearm Injury and Death in the United States: A Public Health Crisis." *American Academy of Pediatrics*.
2. Goyal, M. K., et al. (2019). "State Gun Laws and Pediatric Firearm-Related Mortality." *JAMA Pediatrics*.
3. Webster, D. W., et al. (2020). "The Relationship Between Firearm Policies and Firearm Injury Rates." *Johns Hopkins Center for Gun Policy and Research*.
4. Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives. (2021). "Annual Firearms Manufacturing and Export Report."