

LD 677

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Senator Carney, Representative Kuhn, Members of the Committee, good morning. I am a Maine public defender from Yarmouth, I testify today in support of LD 677 which updates the statutory definition of machine guns and bans possession of a rapid-fire device as that is defined in the text. While I strongly support both provisions, my remarks focus on the second.

For over 90 years, starting with the National Firearms Act of 1934, and by subsequent amendments, Congress has tried to end the civilian availability of rapid-fire devices due to the sheer danger to the public and our police.

By way of illustration, when I was in Afghanistan from 2009-2011 the rifle carried by my military protective unit was usually an M4 or M16. The guys said it had a rate of fire of about 12-15 rounds per minute, and in fully automatic mode it could discharge an incredible 600-800 rounds in a minute for a very brief time before overheating.

It is a fearsome weapon, designed to produce and it does produce mass casualties. It is designed, in short, for the battlefield. Maine is not a battlefield. No one wants it to be. Yet we allow sale, possession and use of rapid-fire devices such as bump stocks, auto sears, trigger cranks and other