

Testimony in Support of LD 677, An Act to Update the Statutory Definition of 'Machine Gun' and Prohibit Possession of a Rapid-fire Device, to the Committee on Judiciary

March 26, 2025

Senator Carney, Representative Kuhn, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Emily Huggins, I live in Bowdoinham. I am expecting my first child in June. As I prepare to bring a new life into this world, my greatest hope is that my child grows up in a safe and secure community. But the Lewiston shooting shattered my sense of safety, and I know I'm not alone in feeling that way.

LD 677 would prohibit rapid-fire modification devices, which turn semi-automatic weapons into the functional equivalent of machine guns. These devices have been used in some of the deadliest mass shootings, including the tragedy in Las Vegas that killed 60 people. While some of these devices are banned federally, this bill would empower law enforcement in Maine to take action when needed and not have to wait for the federal government to step in.

Maine already bans machine guns because we recognize the danger they pose. Closing this loophole is just common sense. This bill does not infringe on anyone's rights; it simply ensures that dangerous weapons are not made even deadlier.

I urge you to vote in favor of LD 677 and take this crucial step toward protecting our communities. Thank you for your time and consideration.