

Testimony for LD667, LD953, LD1109, and LD1126

Honorary members of the judiciary committee, my name is Anne Amadon , I am a resident of Skowhegan. I have been a Registered Nurse for over 40 years (retired) . I am also a retired firearms instructor, prior NRA hunter safety instructor, Gun Owners of Maine board member, Academy of Women Empowerment board member and lifetime NRA member. I have been shooting and handling firearms for 53 years. And yet I still feel totally unqualified to write legislation for Machine Gun definitions because I know very little about them. It seems from LD677 that you also know very little about them, and that is a very serious problem. We have the well-established and vetted federal definition of machine guns as given in LD953. It seems anything more is simply a gross effort to take away the rights of law-abiding citizens just because you can.

With LD1126 and that beautiful sounding bill LD1109 , which has been given such a grand name ,you would think real miracles would happen if it was passed. Except for one BIG problem. It seems the lawmakers who wrote these bills have “forgotten” an undeniable and nullifying fact. People intent on killing others have NO intentions of following any laws. Where do these deranged people go to commit their mass shootings? They go to Gun Free Zones because they KNOW no one will shoot back and well, laws just don’t affect their decisions. Suffice to say the issue is not now, nor will ever be, a gun problem. It always has been, and always will be, a mental health problem. Continuing your efforts to push ineffective and unconstitutional laws that will only remove the God given rights of all law-abiding citizens simply because of your hysterical fear and complete lack of knowledge of firearms, is just pathetic. Yet I see no one asking for those responsible for ignoring the severe, well-documented, mental health problems evidenced in the tragic Lewiston shootings, be to held accountable. And you write no new proposed laws to addressing the need for REQUIRED immediate mental health crisis intervention and continued care, that actually would offer some real effective prevention. We do have an existing law in place, known as the yellow flag law, that had it been enforced, could have prevented the Lewiston shooting (if it was combined with immediate mental health care intervention). It has been used successfully many times since that tragedy.

Since the Lewiston Shooting, there has been a huge influx of proposed new gun legislation that will do absolutely nothing to curb gun related crime. You simply diminish the ability for law abiding citizens to defend themselves and their loved ones. And I know, and we all know, that YOU know that too. I urge each and every one of you, to look honestly at these bills and Vote NO on LD 667, LD 1126 and LD1109 and vote YES on LD953.