



Maine Medical
Association



**TESTIMONY OF THE MAINE MEDICAL ASSOCIATION AND THE MAINE OSTEOPATHIC
ASSOCIATION**

IN OPPOSITION TO

LD 953 - An Act to Change the Definition of "Machine Gun" in the Maine Criminal Code; LD 1049 - An Act to Eliminate the Duty to Inform a Law Enforcement Officer When Carrying a Concealed Handgun Without a Permit; and LD 424 - An Act Concerning the Concealed Carrying of a Handgun by an Individual Who Is 18 Years of Age but Under 21 Years of Age

IN SUPPORT OF

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

Joint Standing Committee on Judiciary
Room 438, State House, Augusta, Maine
Wednesday, March 26, 2025

Good Afternoon, Senator Carney, Representative Kuhn, and Members of the Joint Standing Committee on Judiciary. My name is Paul Cain, M.D., and I am a retired orthopedic surgeon and the Immediate Past President of the Maine Medical Association. I am submitting this testimony on behalf of the Maine Medical Association and the Maine Osteopathic Association.

The Maine Medical Association (MMA) is a professional organization representing more than 4,000 physicians, residents, and medical students in Maine. MMA's mission is to support Maine physicians, advance the quality of medicine in Maine, and promote the health of all Maine people. The Maine Osteopathic Association (MOA) is a professional organization representing more than 1,200 osteopathic physicians, residents, and medical students in Maine whose mission is to serve the Osteopathic profession of the State of Maine through a coordinated effort of professional education, advocacy, and member services in order to ensure the availability of quality osteopathic health care to the people of this State.

MMA and MOA have chosen gun safety reform as a priority issue for our Associations because we cannot continue to ignore one of America's most serious public health crises. Deaths by firearms have increased significantly in the last few years, including homicide, suicide, and accidents. We, the physician caregivers for more than a million Mainers, stand up to end this and advocate through the protection of existing state law and the passage of sensible firearm safety laws in Maine. Maine's physicians are dedicated to our communities' health and well-being. We take our role in advancing public health measures seriously. We have no choice because we are on the front lines of caring for patients affected by gun-related injuries every day.

Opposition

We are testifying in opposition to LD 953 - An Act to Change the Definition of "Machine Gun" in the Maine Criminal Code; LD 1049 - An Act to Eliminate the Duty to Inform a Law Enforcement Officer When Carrying a Concealed Handgun Without a Permit; and LD 424 - An Act Concerning the Concealed Carrying of a Handgun by an Individual Who Is 18 Years of Age but Under 21 Years of Age.

As for LD 953, we appreciate the attempt to create a framework around the term "Machine Gun." However, we have determined to support LD 677 and the proposed statutory definition instead. We will discuss it more below, but we believe it adds the needed specificity to provide clarity for all Mainers.

We are testifying against LD 1049 and 424 because we believe that the existing laws strike an appropriate balance between public safety and gun owners' Second Amendment rights.

As for LD 1049, the existing law is essential protection for law enforcement officers and civilians. Because of the violence in our community, firearms, even those owned by responsible owners, can escalate a situation. This notification requirement allows all parties to move safely through the law enforcement interaction.

As for LD 424, science shows that a young person's brain does not stop developing until they reach their mid-to-late 20s.¹ As such, we do not support legislation that seeks to allow it to be easier for a young person to have fewer restrictions around firearms.

Support

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

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https://www.aacap.org/AACAP/Families_and_Youth/Facts_for_Families/FFF-Guide/The-Teen-Brain-Behavior-Problem-Solving-and-Decision-Making-095.aspx.

As for LD 1126 - An Act Requiring Serial Numbers on Firearms and Prohibiting Undetectable Firearms, by requiring serial numbers on firearms and banning undetectable firearms, the bill may help reduce illegal gun trafficking and improve law enforcement's ability to track firearms used in crimes, ultimately contributing to a decrease in gun violence-related injuries.

As for LD 677 and LD 1109, we appreciate attempts to delineate which firearms and firearm accessories are appropriate to possess and which would result in criminal liability. Firearms are dangerous enough, but the creation and addition of technology to increase the rate of fire serve absolutely no purpose.

In 2024, the United States had 5,023 mass shootings. 250 children aged 0-11 were killed. We are three months into 2025, and we have already had 51 mass shootings. 53 children have been killed, and 81 children have been injured.² Many of those children arrived at a hospital, and every attempt was made to save their lives.

I practiced orthopedic surgery in Lewiston-Auburn for over 30 years and raised our family there. I am also a gun owner and responsible hunter, but I believe in limits to my Second Amendment Rights. We will keep trying to save lives. Still, we implore this Legislature and every subsequent Legislature to recognize that the 2nd Amendment can and should be balanced against each life taken by gun violence.

Thank you for considering the thoughts of Maine's physicians. Please let me know if you have any questions.

Best,

Anne Sedlack

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² <https://www.gunviolencearchive.org/>.