

LD 1109 An Act To Reduce Gun Violence Casualties in Maine by Prohibiting the Possession of Large Capacity Magazines and Ammunition Feeding Devices

Judiciary Committee

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Testimony of David G. Fitz MD

Senator Carney, Representative Kuhn, and members of the Judiciary Committee:

My name is David Fitz. I'm from Cumberland, Maine, where I've lived for 45 years. I'm a husband, father, grandfather, a gun owner, hunter, fisherman, and a retired surgeon. I've taught hunter safety as a certified instructor in the greater Portland area.

I am testifying today in favor of prohibiting large capacity magazines. Their use in the general public has been primarily recreational and a convenience at the range.

We have seen a progressive increase in their use in mass shootings. As I have testified previously, multiple manufacturers make magazine couplers which connect 2 magazines and allow for very rapid change. Hightower Armory advertises: "Just release, spin, and reinsert the coupler." This doubles the magazine capacity. Add a "Triple Mag Drop Leg BX Magazine Carrier" and a "Belt Magazine Carrier." This makes a portable arsenal capable of shooting 600 rounds per minute using a binary trigger (30 rounds in under 3 seconds), with as many pre-loaded magazines as the shooter can carry.

(I invite you to go on YouTube and search for: "Franklin Armory Binary Trigger Faster Than Full Auto." Also search for other videos in this genre.)

No one NEEDS a large capacity magazine. They may be convenient, BUT, get them off

the market. Get them off the streets.

Save lives. There is no practical benefit for hunters: Maine hunting law already prohibits the use of large capacity magazines: Maine allows a magazine capacity of 5, (plus 1 in the breech, = total of 6 cartridges); for migratory game birds, a max of 3 cartridges.

In closing, the purpose of LD 1109 is to improve public safety. The only downside is recreational inconvenience.

Gun manufacturers and the gun lobby have heavily marketed children and adults through violent video games, and particularly hateful, divisive rhetoric. (The National Rifle Association has just referred to Senator Carney as a "gun grabber.") Spend some time on the NRA website (if you can stomach it) to see the inflammatory writing style, and make your own judgment.

The gun lobby's goal is to normalize the use of high capacity magazines and military style weapons. Flood the market. Their concern for public safety is dwarfed by supposed individual rights.

The marketing and use of fear and paranoia must stop.

Please vote ought not to pass and save lives.

Thank you

David G. Fitz
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