

## **Testimony of Peter Murray in Support of LD 1109**

Senator Carney, Representative Kuhn, Members of the Judiciary Committee. My name is Peter Murray. I live in Portland and have been a member of the Bar of the State of Maine for more than 55 years.

LD 1109 is a carefully-tailored proposal to regulate the sale, purchase and possession of high-capacity magazines containing 10 or more bullets.

Many, if not most of the mass shootings experienced in America in recent years have been facilitated by high-capacity magazines that have enabled the shooter to spray rounds of bullets without pause to reload. There is no legitimate peacetime use of such magazines. The use of high-capacity magazines for hunting is already prohibited in Maine.

It appears that the availability of high-capacity magazines may encourage potential mass shooters to open fire. States that limit magazine capacities have lower numbers of such shootings. High-capacity magazines also make it more likely that mass-shooting victims will be struck by more than one bullet, decreasing their chances of survival.

As of now, fourteen states have responded to the regulatory challenges posed by our recent epidemic of mass shooting by enacting limits on magazine capacity. These include all the other New England states except New Hampshire.

LD 1109 is a reasonable measure that permits higher capacity magazines in contexts such as antique gun shows or organized competitions. It gives persons currently in possession of such devices 6 months to dispose of them. LD 1109 does not restrict or affect any person's legitimate use of his firearm. It is the kind of firearms regulation that makes sense in Maine.

LD 1109 is a well thought out measure that we can all support. Please vote this bill "Ought to Pass."