

Senator Carney, Representative Kuhn, and honorable members of the Committee on Judiciary. My name is Margaret Craven, and I live in Lewiston. I am here today to support LD 766 and LD 1109, although I would like to add LD 1126 to the list of bills I support.

I know that you know the capacity for destruction that high capacity weapons have in our society and what those weapons are, so I am not going to comment on them today. I am instead going to talk about the story of Lewiston, because I don't want this to be swept under the Second Amendment mat just because some time has passed. Coming from Lewiston, I am very aware that the events of October 23, 2023, have had an impact on the state of Maine, but the people of Lewiston are still reeling and struggling to get their equilibrium back.

The mass shooting in Lewiston killed 18 people and left countless others injured. It's not just the people who were shot and bear the scars; there are spouses, children, witnesses, and those who were injured trying to escape. The weapon that was used in the shooting was a .308 Ruger SFAR rifle with a scope and a laser targeting device. It took the shooter less than 45 seconds to fire 18 rounds, killing 8 people and injuring three others at the bowling alley. At his next stop, it took him 78 seconds to fire 36 rounds, killing 10 people and injuring ten others. Again, dozens were harmed without physical scars to show.

If anybody thinks that a machine-like gun is a weapon that any Tom, Dick, or Harry should have access to, they are highly mistaken. They are a threat to our safety and society, our children, grandchildren, and neighbours.

Thank you for listening.

Margaret M. Craven
Lewiston