

Testimony in Opposition of LD 1109 to the Committee on Judiciary

March 26, 2025

Senator Carney, Representative Kuhn, and distinguished members of the committee

I am Peter Googins, a resident of the City of South Portland.

LD 1109 is a direct assault on the rights of law-abiding Mainers and a violation of the State of Maine Constitution. Article I, Section 16 of Maine's Constitution states plainly that *"Every citizen has a right to keep and bear arms and this right shall never be questioned."* By seeking to ban the possession, sale, manufacture, or transfer of magazines that exceed 10 rounds, this bill undermines that constitutional protection and imposes arbitrary restrictions on responsible gun owners. Standard capacity magazines — often holding 15 or 30 rounds — are not dangerous accessories but essential components for many commonly owned firearms used for self-defense, hunting, and sport shooting. Restricting their use would criminalize law-abiding citizens who rely on these magazines to protect their families and exercise their constitutional rights.

This bill also ignores the realities of self-defense situations, where magazine capacity can be the difference between life and death. In high-pressure scenarios involving multiple attackers or home invasions, the ability to fire multiple rounds without needing to reload can be crucial for personal safety. Law enforcement officers are not held to this arbitrary 10-round limit because they understand that in a defensive situation, quick and effective response is essential. Why, then, should private citizens — who are often their own first line of defense — be stripped of that same right? Limiting magazine capacity does not prevent crime; it only restricts the ability of law-abiding citizens to defend themselves effectively.

Furthermore, LD 1109 does nothing to address the actions of criminals who, by definition, do not follow the law. Those intent on committing violent crimes will not be deterred by restrictions on magazine capacity. Instead, this bill unfairly targets responsible gun owners, punishing them for exercising a right that is explicitly protected by Maine's Constitution. Rather than imposing broad, unconstitutional limits on law-abiding citizens, lawmakers should focus on enforcing existing laws and addressing the root causes of violence. LD 1109 is not about public safety — it's about control, and it represents a dangerous step toward eroding the rights and freedoms that Mainers hold dear.

Regards,
Peter Googins