

LIMITED CAPACITY MAGAZINE BILL

PUBLIC TESTIMONY

3/25/25

Sec. 1. 17-A MRSA §1059

LD1109

CONCERNS:

- To begin with as we all are aware, criminals do not follow the law. Therefore this bill only limits the capacity of the law abiding citizens of Maine to protect themselves. The criminals will absolutely ignore this second amendment infringement if it becomes law.

- This bill is ultimately a standard magazine ban. Most firearms are commonly designed and sold with magazines that allow for more than 10 rounds. This proposed limit is following some of the most densely populated states with the worst crime in the country. It has not been effective for them it certainly will be an unfair restriction of rights legislation against Mainers throughout the state.

- Most importantly, this bill also puts Maine citizen's lives at risk. Maine is one of the most rural states in the nation. Those who are forced to defend themselves need more than 10 rounds to have a chance at surviving in a self defense scenario. Especially against assailants armed with full capacity magazines.

RECOMMENDATIONS TO REDUCE GUN VIOLENCE:

- I believe limiting mag capacity is not the solution, instead it's about behavior. If you want to adjust bad behavior you must increase consequences. Reducing the number of rounds in a good guys firearm is counterproductive and avoiding the root cause. Gun violence offenders need to be swiftly prosecuted and punished to the maximum extent of the law. Leniency in both prosecution and sentencing sends a clear message that criminals will get away under punished or even worse, unpunished. This is the most effective way to reduce gun violence.

- Also if the State of Maine wants to reduce gun violence, we have to go upstream. By the time one has a firearm in the hand and the intention to do harm, it's too late. You didn't properly address the upstream issue with this bill. It's not the firearm that is to blame, it's the person behind the firearm.

- I believe if we start with the youth and have sound education to demystify firearms this will go a long way. Many of our youth especially our young men have never actually met or spoken with a law enforcement officer. This is a clear divide that must be bridged early on in life. I believe the State of Maine should facilitate school visits and Q &A sessions with our children and local police officers way before they are adults. This will allow for better understanding, safe practices and respect for one another. Ultimately it will help prevent violence in general, as well as prevent real world encounters with law enforcement from going bad unnecessarily.

Thank you for your attention to this matter,

Jeffrey Smalls