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I am here today to testify in opposition to LD 1126, a ban on homemade firearms. I will skip the part of the bill relating to “undetectable firearms” as those are already clearly defined under the Undetectable Firearms act, and there is no loophole or any thing of the sort that has caused that law to lose its relevancy.

We have already been here before, and Samuel Zager along with his handlers at the Maine Gun Safety Coalition have told all of the same lies and tried to scare the legislature by labelling privately manufactured firearms as “ghost guns” and calling them untraceable weapons of choice for far-right extremists, based on nothing but their own imaginations. I have a fair bit of experience in the field of 3D printed guns. While I know many of you tend to be bigots about firearms, I will once again try to educate you, though you are likely to ignore me.

I will start with the culture of 3D printed guns, which people like Zager talk about as if we are not right here in front of him, willing to talk about how these things work. I have even directly offered to teach him how to build guns and he ignored me. Myself and the individuals who design and test these guns without wanting anything in return, in particular the wonderful, compassionate folks in the Black Lotus Coalition, represent a diverse group of people from all corners of the Earth. I have interacted with designers from Germany, the UK, Brazil, and other countries. We are brought together by a simple, nerdy infatuation of firearm design and a desire ensure the individual and collective rights of the general populace. Contrary to the way private gunmakers are portrayed by gun control advocates, the craft attracts a significant number of nontraditional gun owners: transgender people, generic leftists, full blown Communists, Anarchists, Anarcho-Communists, and freedom fighters in oppressed nations in the midst of civil war. All are welcome. We are very protective of the trans people in the community. It seems that many of them fall into home gunsmithing because they do not feel welcome in right-leaning gun shops, and I can’t blame them. There is also the consideration that under the Trump administration and in some red states, difficulties with non-cisgendered people obtaining identifying documents and changes to Form 4473 lead to perfectly lawful citizens not being about to purchase firearms through an FFL.

Moving on to the bill, the first error I see is in the description of a “three-dimensional printer.” Clearly, Representative Zager (or whoever actually wrote this bill) does not own or regularly use 3D printers, because they should know that liquid resin printers and the liquid materials used in them are not well suited for hard use mechanical applications such as firearms. Most guns are best made using an FDM printer and filament made of PLA, PA6-CF, PET-CF, PC-PBT, or similar. Other common FDM filaments like PETG, ABS, and ASA are not well suited, either. If you do not fully understand these terms, you have no more business legislating 3D printers than your male colleagues have legislating female reproductive rights.

I have less experience with “unfinished frames and receivers,” also known as 80% frames and receivers. However, the reason why these are basically unregulated is that they have not yet reached a state of manufacture that allows them to be used as a firearm frame or receiver. They are nothing but a paperweight. You can not ban plain blocks of metal, and that is all they are. The end user has to do a significant amount of machining on their own, much more than merely “assembling” a kit, as Representative Zager and his “experts” keep repeating. Again, we are talking about machining metal in a precise fashion, NOT turning screws.

The section of the bill regarding the process of lawfully privately manufacturing firearms is as legally precarious as it is confusing. The FFLs I have talked to are unsure if it is something they are even allowed to do as part of their function. The parts of the federal code lazily copy and pasted by the authors of this bill are not referring to serializing a firearm FOR the manufacturer, but AS the manufacturer. Many gun shops will likely not have the equipment or desire to perform this task. There is certainly a concern for the liability of marking themselves as the manufacturer of a firearm made by someone else and putting that gun in circulation. This raises two more issues: accessibility and cost. Being a large, sparsely populated state, it may be very difficult for someone without reliable transportation to travel a great distance to find the one FFL willing to complete this process. Based on the engraving services offered by some local gunsmith shops to me, this process may cost as much as two hundred dollars, which is a lot when you are talking about firearms that cost as little as thirty or fifty dollars. Making something cost prohibitive only hurts the poor and marginalized. The people you are supposed to protect as public servants.

Owning a firearm is already one of the most legally precarious things the average citizen does. This bill threatens us with severe penalties for normal practices that have been performed in this state for centuries, under the guise of solving problems that do not even exist. Serial numbers on firearms are a very new concept, and do very little to help the police solve crimes. The very unfortunate capture of Luigi Mangione with his 3D printed Chairmanwon Glock illustrates this well.

In closing, I would like to add that I was personally affected by the Lewiston mass shooting, and have been suffering since with the loss and anxiety one gets from being subjected to such terror. I want each of you who are already set on voting for this bill to look me in the eyes and tell me I deserve more gun violence inflicted on myself and my family by the police under this bill. Tell me why I deserve to have my life ruined or ended for this.