

# Testimony in Opposition of LD 1126 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 1126 is a blatant overreach that undermines the rights of Mainers and conflicts with the State of Maine Constitution. Article I, Section 16 guarantees that *“Every citizen has a right to keep and bear arms and this right shall never be questioned.”* By redefining firearms to include both finished and unfinished receivers, this bill imposes unnecessary restrictions on law-abiding citizens who choose to build their own firearms — a tradition that predates the founding of our nation. Requiring serialization of homemade firearms and parts through a Federal Firearms License (FFL) holder not only creates bureaucratic red tape but also sets a dangerous precedent of government overreach into private firearm ownership.

The right to craft personal firearms has always been part of American gun culture and history, posing no threat when done responsibly. Criminalizing the possession of unserialized homemade firearms or unfinished receivers does nothing to stop crime but instead targets hobbyists and responsible gun owners. Those with criminal intent will continue to ignore these laws, as they do with other firearm regulations. LD 1126 unfairly punishes law-abiding citizens while creating a costly and time-consuming process that serves only to inconvenience and surveil responsible gun owners.

Moreover, this bill is a slippery slope toward further erosion of gun rights. The push to serialize every firearm part under the guise of public safety is merely a stepping stone toward greater firearm registration and control. Lawmakers should focus on enforcing existing laws and targeting actual criminal activity rather than burdening responsible gun owners with redundant regulations. LD 1126 does not make Maine safer — it infringes on constitutionally protected rights and unfairly penalizes law-abiding citizens.

With Regards,  
Peter Googins