



Cathy Breen
Senator, District 25

THE MAINE SENATE

3 State House Station
Augusta, Maine 04333

**Testimony introducing
LD 1454, An Act To Prohibit Untraceable and Undetectable Firearms
Senator Cathy Breen
May 3, 2021**

Senator Deschambault, Representative Warren, and distinguished members of the Joint Standing Committee on Criminal Justice and Public Safety, my name is Cathy Breen. I represent Maine Senate District 25, which includes the communities of Chebeague Island, Cumberland, Falmouth, Gray, Long Island, Yarmouth, and about half of the City of Westbrook. I am here to introduce **LD 1454, An Act To Prohibit Untraceable and Undetectable Firearms**.

This bill bans print-at-home plastic guns and make-at-home gun kits for the reasons that these guns would not be subject to gun safety laws already on the books. They are often referred to as “ghost guns” because they are untraceable.

If you had told me twenty years ago that one day the Legislature would be taking up how to regulate plastic guns made from a printer, I would have said you are confusing us with a dystopian novel or a futuristic action film. But here we are. The dizzying pace of the tech sector has a way of turning the unthinkable into reality in a short period of time.

3-D guns are plastic firearms made with a printer and downloadable instructions. They are untraceable, not be subject to background checks and, most disturbingly, can be smuggled through metal detectors at airports, government buildings and other places. Prohibiting manufacture and ownership of these weapons in Maine seems obvious.

Make-at-home gun kits are not required to carry a serial number due to a technicality. Federal law requires a serial number to be attached to the part of the firing mechanism known as the ‘frame’ or ‘receiver’. Gun kits contain unfinished frames or receivers that can be completed at home in minutes with basic tools. This allows manufacturers to sell these guns to virtually anyone without requiring a background check and without providing a traceable serial number.

The use of ghost guns in illegal trafficking rings and mass shootings is on the rise.¹ Eight states and the District of Columbia have passed laws to address the problem and we would be wise to join them. Please support this bill to keep Mainers safe from ghost guns. Thank you, and I am happy to take any questions.

¹ “Ghost Guns,” Gifford Law Center, Washington DC, Accessed May 1, 2021, <https://giffords.org/lawcenter/gun-laws/policy-areas/hardware-ammunition/ghost-guns/?eType=EmailBlastContent&eId=2c4f0f46-f268-4f9d-b8c8-a622b0bb2d78>