

Senator Deschambault, Representative Warren, and distinguished members of the Criminal Justice and Public Safety Committee,

Thank you for your work on important criminal and public safety matters.

Thanks also to the sponsors of LD1454.

LD1454 deals with untraceable firearms, either a downloadable 3D gun without a serial number or a firearm without a serial number assembled from a kit using an unfinished frame (handgun) or receiver (automatic weapon). The code to make 3D guns and kits for ghost guns are not classified as firearms. Therefore, purchase of the code or kit does not require a background check, and people who should not have guns can buy untraceable guns. 3D guns made of plastic are undetectable by metal scanners at airports and large public events.

People who want untraceable, undetectable firearms must want them mostly for criminal purposes. Opposition to this bill would be aiding criminal activity.

The sales of kits have grown rapidly in recent years, and ghost guns have increasingly been showing up at crime scenes. Law enforcement officials in California have estimated that roughly 3 in 10 guns recovered from crimes in the state are ghost weapons. In February, Los Angeles City Attorney Mike Feuer filed a lawsuit against a Nevada-based seller of such kits, saying that “untraceable ghost guns are the emerging weapon of choice for criminals” in Los Angeles and other major cities. (Bangor Daily News 04-08-2021).

President Biden plans to require background checks with the sale of 3D and ghost guns, but this will take years to be established.

Let’s pass this bill and block access to 3D and ghost guns and the criminal activity they facilitate.