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**Testimony of Rep. Vicki Doudera on LD 976 “An Act To Amend the Definition of
“Machine Gun” to Include Bump Stock Devices”**

May 3, 2021

Greetings Senator Deschambault, Representative Warren, and members of the Committee on Criminal Justice and Public Safety. I am Representative Vicki Doudera, and I represent House District 94, which includes the towns of Camden, Islesboro and Rockport. I’m here today to present LD 976 “An Act To Amend the Definition of “Machine Gun” to Include Bump Stock Devices.”

A bump stock is a plastic device that increases a semiautomatic firearm’s rate of firing, possibly to a rate nearly equal to that of an automatic weapon. It does this by harnessing the gun’s recoil to allow the gun to pump out bullets faster. A bump stock is one of a number of firearm accessories that enhance the rate of firing.

There is no legitimate purpose for a bump stock, binary trigger, trigger crank or similar rate of firearm enhancement accessory. Bump stocks and the like are not used for hunting. They are not used for target practice. They are not used for self-defense -- or home defense.

What bump stocks and their ilk are used for are ‘mass killings’ -- a term that since 2013 means 3 or more killings in a single incident according to federal law. There have been at least four mass killings from firearms so far in 2021, all of which have come in March and have left a total of 30 people dead and at least seven injured.¹

There are conflicting ways of tallying mass shootings. Some definitions say three deaths -- others say four. There are also thousands of firearm killings each year in which there were fewer than three fatalities. 178 of those have occurred so far this year: 52 in April, 48 in March, 43 in

¹ [Time Magazine](#)

February, and 35 in January. In 2021 alone, 203 Americans have been killed in shootings involving 3 people or more. More than 500 have been wounded.² Just in 2021.

A bump stock device was used in the December 2018 mass shooting in Las Vegas which killed 58 people and injured more than 500. The Las Vegas mass shooter had 13 rifles outfitted with bump stocks. He used them to fire 1,049 rounds.³

Following that mass shooting -- the deadliest in American history -- President Trump banned the use of bump-stock devices by directing the Bureau of ATF to clarify that bump stocks fall within the definition of machine gun under federal law. This rule went in effect in March 2019.

The bill before you does the same thing. LD 976 amends the definition of "machine gun" to include a weapon to which a bump stock device is affixed. If passed, it will cause Maine law to conform with the federal regulation.

In the time since LD 976 has emerged from the Revisor of Statutes, a new development has occurred. On March 25, 2021, a panel of the U.S. Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals rejected the legality of the 2018 rule change by federal regulators that reclassified bump stocks as illegal machine guns. A key facet of the court's opinion was that the action of a bump stock still requires a trigger to be pulled for every shot, unlike a machine gun. Previously, two other circuit courts found the ban on bump stocks to be legal.

There is no legitimate purpose to owning a bump stock or other type of firearm accessory that enhances the rate of firing. With the turmoil on this issue on the federal level, let's take action here in Maine, either by passing the bill as is or amending it to one that outright bans all rate of firing enhancements as has been done in other states. I look forward to working with this committee to accomplish this important goal.

I am happy to answer any questions.

² [List of Mass Shootings in the U.S.](#) in 2021

³ [The Trace](#)