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Testimony of Rep. Rebecca Millett in support of
LD 1454, An Act To Prohibit Untraceable and Undetectable Firearms
Before the Joint Standing Committee on Criminal Justice and Public Safety

Good morning Senator Deschambault, Representative Warren and esteemed members of the Criminal Justice and Public Safety Committee. My name is Rebecca Millett and I represent House District 30 which is most of Cape Elizabeth. I am here today in support of **LD 1454, An Act To Prohibit Untraceable and Undetectable Firearms.**

These firearms, also known as “ghost guns,” are dangerous, homemade untraceable firearms and are increasingly being used to circumvent both federal and state gun laws. These types of guns can be assembled from kits, or even made with 3D printers, therefore lacking a serial number and making them untraceable by law enforcement and often undetectable by metal detectors.

This serial number is extremely important for a number of reasons. When law enforcement agencies recover firearms that have been used in crimes, the agencies use the serial number as an investigative tool to trace the firearm back to the retail purchaser. Without a serial number, law enforcement cannot run a trace search on a firearm, making it difficult, if not impossible, to trace the gun back to an individual.

Gun deaths in Maine increased 45 percent from 2010 to 2019 a vastly higher rate than the 17 percent increase nationwide during the same time period. With this sobering statistic in mind, we must acknowledge and act on the increasing creation and use of ghost guns. Currently, eight states and the District of Columbia have enacted laws to at least partially address the problem of undetectable or untraceable guns, and it’s time Maine follows suit.

Gun safety can be a bipartisan issue. I hope you will join me in supporting this important legislation. Thank you for your time. I am happy to take any questions.

