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***Testimony of Representative Melanie Sachs, co-sponsor of LD 976, "An Act To Amend the Definition of "Machine Gun" To Include Bump Stock Devices" before the Joint Standing Committee on Criminal Justice and Public Safety***

Senator Deschambault, Representative Warren, and distinguished members of the Joint Standing Committee on Criminal Justice and Safety:

My name is Melanie Sachs, and I am honored to represent House District 48, which includes Freeport and part of Pownal. I am a co-sponsor and strong supporter of LD 976. In truth, I was not often in agreement with former President Trump on policy issues. But former President Trump's efforts to ban bump stocks - after a shooter murdered 58 people and injured hundreds more in Las Vegas in 2017 using an arsenal that reportedly included several weapons with bump stocks - is indeed one effort I agree with.

As [defined](#) in one report "A bump stock is a simple device that attaches to semiautomatic rifles, which normally shoot one round per trigger-pull, to speed up the firing rate by harnessing the gun's recoil to "bump" the trigger faster than the shooter would be able to with his or her finger." The Las Vegas shooter, per this report, was able to "spray more than a thousand rounds from his perch in the Mandalay Bay Resort and Casino."

In March 2021, the [U.S. Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit](#), in a divided opinion, stated that the inclusion of bump stocks by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives into the definition of machine gun during the Trump Administration was not a permissible interpretation of the statute. It continues to be litigated at the federal level.

As one [leading libertarian publication](#) noted, however, this ruling indicates "The issue here is not whether banning bump stocks is a good idea but who has the authority to do it. As the [Sixth Circuit] appeals court noted, 'that judgment is reserved to the people through their duly elected representatives in Congress.'" And as I would argue, their duly elected state legislators as well. California and Massachusetts have taken this action, and Maine should do so as well. I grew up with a strong tradition of hunting in Western Maine, and I am an award-winning Boy Scout and Girl Scout leader who worked with young people teaching responsible firearms use. The bump

stock has no hunting or heritage legacy in our state. As demonstrated, its purpose is instead to make shooting, and killing, go faster. Please support LD 976 and take the common-sense step to include bump stocks into the definition of machine guns here in Maine.