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***Testimony of Representative Melanie Sachs, co-sponsor of LD 1454, “An Act To Prohibit Untraceable and Undetectable Firearms” 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 appear before you as a co-sponsor and strong supporter of LD 1454.

Untraceable and undetectable firearms, often called “ghost guns”, include firearms assembled from kits, with parts bought by a gun dealer or your local hardware store, or made with 3D printers. Guidance for assembly is readily available simply by consulting a YouTube video or a “do-it -yourself” handbook. There is no registration trail or serial number attached. One [article](#) noted that “A former Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) special agent described the ease with which fully functional guns can be made at home using these parts, [noting] “If you can put Ikea furniture together, you can make one of these.” There is [increasing evidence](#) of the presence of ghost guns in mass shootings, both in community and school settings, and in gun trafficking and other serious crimes.

Ghost guns should not be tolerated. Mainers should not be put at risk for something as easy to put together as a Swedish mass-marketed end table. Law-abiding, gun-owning families such as my own would have no need or reason to assemble or own a ghost gun, nor would the passage of legislation infringe on our rights. If we are indeed to have, as the Second Amendment states, “a well-regulated militia” then we need a way to regulate these untraceable firearms.

Eight states and the District of Columbia have implemented legislation addressing this issue. It is time Maine updates our statutes to address the evolving technology, protecting our police officers, our children, and every person in our state. LD 1454 is common-sense legislation whose time has come.