

Maine Chapter

INCORPORATED IN MAINE

American Academy of Pediatrics

DEDICATED TO THE HEALTH OF ALL CHILDREN®



Executive Committee

President
Brian Youth, MD, FAAP

Vice President
Anne Coates, MD, FAAP

Treasurer
Christopher Motyl, DO, FAAP

Secretary
Genevieve Whiting, MD, FAAP

Immediate Past President
Laura Blaisdell, MD, MPH, FAAP

Board of Directors

Mahmuda Ahmed, MD, FAAP
Joseph Anderson, DO, FAAP
Rebecca Brakeley, MD, FAAP
Amy Buczkowski, MD, FAAP
Melissa Burch, MD, FAAP
Adrienne Carmack, MD, FAAP
Gabriel Civiello, MD, FAAP
Alyssa Goodwin, MD, FAAP
Allison Grover, MD*
Deborah Q. Hagler, MD, MPH, FAAP
Dan Hale, MD, FAAP
Jennifer Jewell, MD, MS, FAAP
Stephanie Joy, MD, FAAP
Emily Keller, MD, FAAP
Alton Kremer, MD, PhD, FAAP
Michele LaBotz, MD, FAAP
Lawrence Losey, MD, FAAP
Valerie O'Hara, DO, FAAP
Calvin Schaffer, MD*
Austin Steward**
Jeffrey Stone, DO, FAAP
Andrea Tracy, MD, FAAP
Lara Walsh, MD, FAAP
Jyotika Vallurupalli**
Margaret Zamboni, DO, FAAP

*Resident Board Representatives

**Medical Student Representatives

Staff

Dee Kerry, BS
Executive Director

Emily Belanger, RN, BSN
Education & Membership Manager

Madeleine DesFosses, BA
Public Health & Advocacy Manager

Tiffany Harrington, MBA
Development Director

30 Association Drive, Box 190
Manchester, ME 04351
office: 207-622-3374

www.maineaap.org

March 25, 2025

Subject: LD 1109: An Act to Reduce Gun Violence Casualties in Maine by Prohibiting the Possession of Large Capacity Magazines and Ammunition Feeding Devices

Senator Carney, Representative Kuhn, and distinguished members of the Committee on Judiciary, my name is Joe Anderson. I am a resident of Portland and I serve on the board of the Maine Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics. I work as a Pediatric Hospitalist in Lewiston, and in the aftermath of the 2023 mass shooting, I also founded the group Maine Providers for Gun Safety. I am writing today to express our support for LD 1109. **We ask that you vote Ought to Pass on this bill.**

Physicians and public health experts have been consistent in their call for an end to civilian use of high-capacity magazines since the federal assault weapons ban expired in 2004, and the available evidence supports their position. The following organizations, among many others, have called for restricting civilian access to high-capacity magazines, among several other evidence-based recommendations¹:

- American Medical Association
- American Academy of Pediatrics
- American College of Surgeons
- American Pediatric Surgical Association
- American Academy of Family Physicians
- American Psychiatric Association
- American College of Physicians
- American Public Health Association

A study in the American Journal of Public Health published in 2019 sought to examine the effect of large-capacity magazine (LCM) bans on high-fatality mass shootings from 1990 to 2017.² They defined an LCM as a detachable ammunition-feeding device capable of holding more than 10 bullets, and a high-fatality mass shooting as one with 6 or more victims shot to death, not including the perpetrator(s). The Lewiston shooting would have met both qualifications.

During the study period, there were 69 high-fatality mass shootings, with 64% of those involving LCMs. **Attacks involving LCMs on average resulted in a 62% higher death toll**, providing the justification for why prohibition of these devices is necessary. A common argument against such a ban is that it is unlikely to prevent criminals from obtaining and using an illegally obtained device to commit crimes. However, this study also demonstrated that **in states where no ban was present, the incidence of high-fatality mass shootings was more than double** that of states with a LCM ban in place, and the annual number of deaths due to high-fatality mass shootings was more than three times higher.

Maine Chapter

INCORPORATED IN MAINE

American Academy of Pediatrics

DEDICATED TO THE HEALTH OF ALL CHILDREN®



The American Academy of Pediatrics supports evidence-based and common-sense gun safety legislation that can help address the epidemic of gun violence – now the leading cause of death for children and teens in the United States. We believe this legislation meets that goal.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I apologize for not being able to testify in person and would be happy to attend the work session if you would appreciate our input.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Joe Anderson" followed by a stylized flourish.

Joe Anderson, DO, FAAP

Advocacy Chair, Maine Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics
Founder, Maine Providers for Gun Safety

¹ McLean RM, Harris P, Cullen J, Maier RV, Yasuda KE, Schwartz BJ, Benjamin GC. Firearm-Related Injury and Death in the United States: A Call to Action From the Nation's Leading Physician and Public Health Professional Organizations. *Ann Intern Med.* 2019 Oct 15;171(8):573-577. doi: 10.7326/M19-2441. Epub 2019 Aug 7. PMID: 31390463.

² Klarevas L, Conner A, Hemenway D. The Effect of Large-Capacity Magazine Bans on High-Fatality Mass Shootings, 1990-2017. *Am J Public Health.* 2019 Dec;109(12):1754-1761.