

Claudia Griffiths
Camden
LD 677

Senator Carney, Representative Kuhn and members of the committee.

As a Mainer resident, I am testifying in favor of LD 677 An Act to update the definition of a “machine gun” and to prohibit possession of a rapid-fire device.

I am a retiree after a career mostly in healthcare, the daughter of a WW2 vet who hunted, with my brother, on our farm with ordinary shotguns, and fellow Mainer asking for laws to keep weapons of war out of our Maine communities. Too many communities, including in New England, have been deeply scarred by rapid fire devices such as bump stocks, and machine-gun conversion devices. Some of these devices enable a shooter to fire up to 1,200 rounds per minute. These rapid-fire guns, together with large capacity magazines (LD1109), and a shooter has fire power to decimate any community gathering and threaten police. I believe there is no legitimate civilian use of these killing weapons.

I spent most all of my career working in healthcare, including a public trauma hospital and not-for-profit hospitals. I strongly believe that Gun Safety is a major public health issue and that we Mainers must take wise action to prevent gun massacres in Maine.

What an honor and responsibility you have to save lives of children, moms, dads, neighbors, friends - just by your vote for these two bills.

What a honor and duty you have to do all you can to protect those who protect our children and communities: teachers, school guards, and police - just by your vote for these two bills.

What a happier, safer community you help create by reducing the fear children feel when simply going to school to learn - and preventing the death, anguish and trauma of the victims, families, EMS, doctors and nurses - just by your vote for these two bills.

Please pass LD 677. Thank you.