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Testimony Neither For nor Against:
L.D. 1126 - An Act Requiring Serial Numbers on Firearms and Prohibiting Undetectable
Firearms

Good morning Senator Carney, Rep. Kuhn and members of the Judiciary Committee.

My name is Margaret Groban. I live in South Portland. I recently retired after a 30+ year career as a federal prosecutor in Maine focusing on firearms and domestic violence and the intersection between the two. I served for years on Maine's Domestic Violence Homicide Review Panel. I am adjunct faculty at University of Maine School of Law where I co-teach a class on the Second Amendment and the Regulation of Firearms.

It is my extensive experience with firearm laws that leads me to submit comments on L.D. 1126. This proposed legislation would: (1) require Maine firearms to be detectable as already required under federal law; and (2) require serialization of all firearms in Maine, and eliminate the current loophole for firearms assembled by kits or built from a 3D printer.

By way of background, the Gun Control Act of 1968 requires serialization of all firearms. Recognizing the rapid increase of unserialized privately made firearms (PMFs) both from kits and 3D printing, and the obstacles these firearms present to law enforcement investigations, ATF in 2022 modernized the definition of a firearm to include "a weapon parts kit that is designed to or may readily be completed, assembled, restored, or otherwise converted to expel a projectile by the action of an explosive." 27 C.F.R. section 4787.11. This regulation is currently under review by Supreme Court.

LD 1126 would create parity and require serialization for all operational firearms. Lack of serialization is a criminal way to conceal activities from law enforcement. This problem is acute both nationwide and here in Maine as demonstrated by the recovery of 41 PMFs in Maine in 2022 and 2023. It is also critical to empower local law enforcement by state statute to investigate and trace crime guns rather than rely on the few federal law enforcement officers in Maine.

LD 1126 does not prevent or criminalize the manufacture of PMFs. Instead, it ensures the serialization of these weapons to eliminate a safe haven for crime guns.