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Testimony in support of

L.D. 1126, An Act Requiring Serial Numbers on Firearms and Prohibiting Undetectable Firearms.

Senator Carney, Representative Zager, and the honorable members of the Judiciary Committee. My Name is John Kilbride, I serve as the Chief of Police for the Falmouth Police Department. I am here today to provide support for LD 1126.

The serialization of firearms is critical for public safety and the safety of all law enforcement officers in the State of Maine. With serialization of firearms, law enforcement is able to conduct thorough and timely investigations, tracing legal ownership, enforcement of gun laws and determining accountability. For the police officer on the street managing a difficult and dangerous incident, serial numbers allow officers several opportunities to determine if the firearm is stolen in the National Crime Information Center (NCIC) in all states, verify the owner, determine if the serial numbers have been altered and intervene through lawful enforcement or seizure, potentially stopping a violent criminal act with those of ill intent. Serialization is essential in identifying and supporting lawful ownership in returning firearms to citizens. Without serial numbers or distinctive markings, I would probably not return a firearm to the alleged owner.

Firearms without serial numbers will create a vacuum and distribution networks for individuals seeking firearms with ill will or criminal intent not only in Maine but furnishing across the country. Non-serialized firearms are desirable for those that want no connection or responsibility to the firearm, making criminal investigations into the history and origin of the firearm virtually impossible, allowing those producing these firearms immunity from criminal prosecution. I remind the committee that serial numbers on firearms, vehicles, and most components are vital to any criminal

investigation. The Oklahoma City bombing (1995) investigation was successful because of a serial number on a truck axle located several blocks away from the scene.

I urge you to vote Ought to Pass on this bill.

Thank you all for your time and consideration.