

John MacLeod
Wells
LD 1109

Committee Members,

I write today in opposition to LD1109. While I respect your pursuit to cut down on violence, it is my belief that this bill will not aid in that endeavor. All this bill will accomplish is criminalizing law abiding, legal gun owners. We need to stop punishing law abiding citizens in our pursuit to stop criminals. Magazines holding over 10 rounds are commonly found in a wide variety of firearms. It would greatly inhibit your average, everyday citizen's ability to defend themselves and their families in a time where crime appears to be on the rise. I urge you to please vote this bill down in its entirety. The tragic event that took place in Lewiston shocked our state and our nation. It absolutely should spur us to seek out reforms to prevent this type of tragedy from ever taking place again. What happened was horrific. Despite Maine's high rate of gun ownership, many of these firearms holding magazines with 10+ rounds, we have an extremely low incidence of firearms related crimes. I think the statistics would show that most of these horrendous crimes employed a hand gun. The system failed us in Lewiston. The laws and checks that were already in place were not employed. Had they been, we may have been able to prevent it with what we already have on the books. Before you seek to punish those firearm owners whom follow the law, love their neighbors, and contribute to their communities, please stop to consider alternatives to these intrusive bills that have been proposed. Responsible firearm ownership is engrained in Maine's culture. Please help us preserve that. Also, I just wanted to take a minute to thank you all for serving our great state. It is no easy job. The rhetoric and vitriol is high. I appreciate your service.