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Large-capacity magazine bans are not only ineffective in reducing gun violence but represent a clear and dangerous infringement on the Second Amendment rights of law-abiding citizens. These bans are unconditional in the sense that they apply sweeping restrictions to the general population without accounting for lawful use, individual rights, or measurable impact on public safety. The reality is that criminals, by definition, do not follow laws, and restricting magazine capacity does nothing to deter those already willing to break the law, including committing acts of violence.

The data consistently shows limiting magazine capacity does not stop a determined attacker who can carry multiple magazines or weapons, but it does impede law-abiding citizens from defending themselves effectively in high-stress situations where every second—and every round—counts.

More concerning is the fact that these bans are often framed as common-sense reforms, when in fact, they are part of a broader, incremental strategy to undermine and strip the Second Amendment from its people. By targeting components like magazines, lawmakers create a slippery slope, slowly dismantling the right to keep and bear arms under the guise of public safety. It's not about public safety, it's about control.

If the goal were truly to reduce gun violence, efforts would focus on enforcing existing laws, addressing mental health, and targeting the criminal misuse of firearms; not restricting the tools used by thousands of responsible Mainers for sport, self-defense, recreational and lawful purposes. Large-capacity magazine bans are symbolic gestures that of our constitutional rights without making anyone safer.

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