

Richard Shapiro
Brunswick
LD 1109

Dear Committee Members, my name is Richard Shapiro. I live in Brunswick.

I am testifying In opposition to “LD 1109 An Act to Reduce Gun Violence Casualties in Maine by Prohibiting the Possession of Large-capacity Ammunition Feeding Devices”

This proposal is simply unconstitutional under NYSRPA vs. Bruen - 597 U.S. 1 (2022).

According to the Firearms United Network who researched such provisions in response to a proposed ban in the EU: "No magazine capacity ban anywhere in the world has shown any statistically proven positive effect. Most have been quietly repealed."

In the real world, mass shootings take place over surprisingly long periods of time, unlike incidents of self defense, which are generally over in seconds. Therefore, limiting the ability of homeowners to defend themselves against an average of 3 home invaders is far more important than the almost vanishingly unlikely event that a mass shooter will not be given the 2 seconds it takes to change magazines. Limiting the ability of those who use our streets and byways similarly to a small number of rounds to fend off multiple attackers is equally morally repugnant.

Even if the extremely rare benefit promised by a ban on standard capacity magazines actually existed in the real world, such benefit would be dramatically outweighed by the unfortunate consequences of passing a law that normally law-abiding people won't obey. In fact, in jurisdictions where such bans have been emplaced, they have been ignored not only by criminals but by nearly 100% of the gun-owning population. In Sunnyvale California, for example, where they demanded that all such magazines be turned in to police, not ONE magazine was surrendered. Not one.

I would note that any law so unjust and unreasonable that the entire gun-owning population ignores it is not only stupid, but dangerous, in that it normalizes lawbreaking. After all, if laws are irrational and unenforceable, why obey them?

Such bans have been rejected before by Maine because they only hurt the law abiding, while saving no lives in real world situations. This is just not a law any state, let-alone Maine, one of the safest states in this country, needs or wants.

We've owned these guns, with these standard magazines that came with them, for well over a half a century. There are probably several hundred million such magazines in the US currently, and a minimum of several hundred thousand of them in Maine. Declaring them illegal via legislative fiat now is nothing but an insult to Maine's Law Abiding Gun Owners.