

Dear Judiciary Committee

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the efforts to restrict the capacity of firearm magazines in the State of Maine. As a concerned resident and a strong advocate for individual rights, I believe such a measure would infringe upon the fundamental rights guaranteed to us under the Second Amendment of the United States Constitution.

Studies have shown that there is no conclusive evidence linking high-capacity magazines to a reduction in violent crime or mass shootings. Criminals, by definition, do not adhere to laws, and any attempts to restrict law-abiding citizens' access to essential tools for self-defense would only serve to weaken public safety, leaving responsible individuals at a disadvantage.

I was utterly devastated by the horrific events that occurred in Lewiston, Maine on October 25, 2023. This tragedy left an everlasting mark on the community and our state, and the loss felt by so many was immeasurable. What angered me deeply in the months that followed, however, was the revelation that the assailant had already been on law enforcement's radar. Despite this knowledge, nothing was done to prevent the violence, even though Maine already had a Yellow Flag law in place that could have addressed this situation.

The aftermath of the tragedy has led to calls for new gun control measures, including a ban on magazine capacity. But the reality is that such measures would have done nothing to save the lives lost that night. What could have made a difference—and what still needs to be prioritized—is adherence to and proper enforcement of existing gun laws. The tools were already in place to prevent this disaster, but the failure to act in the face of clear warning signs is what ultimately allowed it to happen.

In Maine, where we value personal freedom and individual rights, it is critical that we do not sacrifice our constitutional liberties for ineffective, politically motivated measures. Article I, Section 16 in the Constitution of the State of Maine states “Every citizen has a right to keep arms and this right shall never be questioned”. Rather than imposing more restrictions on responsible gun owners, we should focus on improving law enforcement capabilities, enhancing mental health support services, and addressing the root causes of violence in our communities.

The proposed ban on high-capacity magazines, which are commonly used for lawful purposes such as personal defense, recreational shooting, and hunting, is a misguided and ineffective solution to issues of public safety. Responsible gun owners do not pose a threat to society. The implementation of such a ban would disproportionately affect law-abiding citizens without addressing the root causes of gun violence, such as mental health issues, criminal activity, and illegal access to firearms.

I am urging you to consider the profound implications that such a ban would have on the rights and freedoms of Maine residents. Please stand with those who believe in protecting the Second Amendment and preserving the rights of responsible firearm owners in our state by voting “ought not to pass” on LD 1109.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I trust that you will carefully evaluate the impact of this proposed ban and choose to uphold the rights of Maine citizens.

Respectfully,

Craig E. Voisine