

Dear Judiciary Committee,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to any efforts to limit the capacity of gun magazines. The Second Amendment of the United States Constitution guarantees the right of law-abiding citizens to keep and bear arms, a fundamental liberty that is central to our nation's freedoms.

Evidence has shown that restricting magazine capacities does not prevent criminals from committing crimes and do not have a significant impact on public safety because criminals will always find ways to circumvent the laws. Limiting magazine capacities simply penalizes responsible gun owners and does little to address the root causes of violence. Law-abiding citizens, including hunters, sport shooters, and home defenders, would be unnecessarily punished by these laws, while criminals will continue to disregard them altogether. The focus should be on addressing criminal behavior, improving mental health resources, strengthening our legal systems and holding criminals accountable—not infringing upon the constitutional rights of Mainers.

As a supporter of the Second Amendment, I believe that the right to self-defense and the ability to protect one's family, home, and community should never be compromised. Our freedoms are not negotiable, and the government should not be in the business of limiting the means by which citizens can protect themselves. I urge you to stand firm in defense of the Second Amendment and oppose any proposals that would limit gun magazine capacities. Protecting our rights is essential to preserving the freedoms that make our country great.

For all of these reasons, I plead with this committee to vote "ought not to pass" on LD 1109 and stand up for the rights of responsible gun owners across our state.

Respectfully,

**Robert Wessels**