

# STATE OF MAINE

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**TODD R. COLLINS**  
DISTRICT VIII

## **MAINE PROSECUTORS ASSOCIATION SHIRA BURNS, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

**“An Act to Restore Full Civil Rights to Possess Firearms to Persons Previously Convicted of  
Certain Nonviolent Felony Crimes”  
Before the Joint Standing Committee on Judiciary  
Public Hearing Date: May 1, 2025  
Testimony in Opposition of LD 1009**

Senator Carney, Representative Kuhn and members of the Joint Standing Committee on Judiciary. My name is Shira Burns and I represent the Maine Prosecutors Association. I submit this testimony in opposition of LD 1009.

The Maine Prosecutors Association appreciates the bill’s sponsor in attempting to exclude crimes that would be considered “violent” to ensure they will continue to be a prohibited person from possessing firearms. However, this bill does not account for the reality of how some pleas are formed and would have the high likelihood of putting firearms back in the hands of people that prosecutors intentionally bargained to make them a lifetime prohibited person for safety reasons.

For example, a defendant could be charged with Domestic Violence Aggravated Assault and given bail conditions to not have contact with his victim and/or not to possess firearms. While out on bail, the defendant contacts his victim and/or possess a firearm and is charged with a Class C Violation of Conditions of Release. During plea negotiations, the victim expresses to the victim witness advocate that the most important thing for her is that the defendant not be able to possess firearms. A plea is formed where the Domestic Violence Aggravated Assault charge is dismissed and the defendant pleads guilty to the Class C Violation of Conditions of Release where he becomes a prohibited person. At sentencing, the victim most likely hears from both the Judge and the prosecutor that the defendant will not be able to possess firearms for the rest of his life.

This bill would undue intentional collateral consequences of many pleas that included safety planning for victims. For all these reasons, the Maine Prosecutors Association is in opposition to LD 1009.