



Testimony before the Joint Standing Committee on Judiciary
March 26, 2025

In support of:

- LD 677 An Act to Update the Statutory Definition of "Machine Gun" and Prohibit Possession of a Rapid-fire Device
- LD 1126 An Act Requiring Serial Numbers on Firearms and Prohibiting Undetectable Firearms
- LD 1109 An Act to Reduce Gun Violence Casualties in Maine by Prohibiting the Possession of Large-capacity Ammunition Feeding Devices

In opposition to:

- LD 953 An Act to Change the Definition of "Machine Gun" in the Maine Criminal Code
- LD 424 An Act Concerning the Concealed Carrying of a Handgun by an Individual Who Is 18 Years of Age but Under 21 Years of Age
- LD 829 An Act to Standardize the Laws Regarding the Carrying of Concealed Handguns in State Parks
- LD 998 An Act Regarding an Employer's Authority to Prohibit an Employee from Storing a Firearm in the Employee's Vehicle
- LD 1049 An Act to Eliminate the Duty to Inform a Law Enforcement Officer When Carrying a Concealed Handgun Without a Permit

Senator Carney, Representative Kuhn, and Members of the Committee,

I am Rev. Jane Field, Executive Director of the Maine Council of Churches, a nonprofit coalition of seven mainline Protestant member denominations that have more than 400 congregations in Maine with over 50,000 parishioners in their care.

The central value of love of neighbor grounds the work of the Council, and we take seriously the biblical imperative to **protect the vulnerable and hold those who harm them accountable**. It's because of these core values that the Council **supports passage of LD 677, 1126, and 1109 and opposes passage of LD 953, 424, 829, 998 and 1049.**

Maine's faith leaders and the congregations they serve know far too well the trauma and grief of losing loved ones to gun violence. We pray for and stand in solidarity with survivors and declare our support for those who still struggle in the face of trauma and grief. And we are clear: **it is time to reclaim our homes, streets, schools, and workplaces from the threat of gun violence**, and it is time to take back our power to create safe and peaceful communities—to **reclaim it from the narrow special interests** that seek to block even modest, common-sense measures to prevent gun violence and promote gun safety and responsible gun ownership.

Three of the bills before you today—LD 677, 1126, and 1109—help to accomplish these life-saving goals. The other bills before you would do the opposite, would make our homes, streets, schools, and workplaces less safe and more vulnerable to the scourge of gun violence.

Policy experts will provide you with the technical and legal specifics on how prohibiting possession of rapid-fire devices, requiring serial numbers on firearms, and prohibiting possession of large-capacity ammunition feeding devices can and will keep Mainers safer by reducing gun violence in our state.

We in the faith community are here to **speak to the moral imperative** to do so, and to **condemn our culture's idolatrous fascination with weapons designed to take human life in acts of mass shooting that leave people slaughtered, families shattered, and communities devastated.**

*Episcopal Diocese of Maine, Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, Presbyterian Church (USA),
Religious Society of Friends, Unitarian Universalist Association, United Church of Christ, United Methodist Church*

As part of our faithful commitment to creating a more peaceful world, we come before you today asking that you **take action to turn our state from the path of fear and destruction caused by gun violence. We are asking you to vote Ought To Pass on LD 677, 1126, and 1109, and to vote Ought Not To Pass on LD 953, 424, 829, 998, and 1049.**