



Testimony of Sarah Woodbury, Director of Advocacy, Defend Our Health
In Opposition of LD 34, “An Act to Require a Person to Show Photographic Identification for the
Purpose of Voting”
Before the Veterans and Legal Affairs Committee
February 6, 2023

Greetings, Senator Hickman, Representative Supica and members of the Veterans and Legal Affairs Committee: My name is Sarah Woodbury. I am a native Mainer and the director of advocacy for Defend Our Health. Defend Our Health’s mission is to make sure that everyone has equal access to safe food and drinking water, healthy homes and products that are toxic-free and climate friendly. Please accept this testimony in opposition of LD 34, “An Act to Require a Person to Show Photographic Identification for the Purpose of Voting”.

The right to vote is one of our most fundamental rights as Americans. It may seem curious that an organization that works on environmental health issues would engage in issues around voting rights and access to the ballot. As we see it, a functioning democracy is necessary to protect the health and environment of its citizens. Voting is an integral part of that functioning democracy, and we should do everything we can to make sure that voting is easy and accessible for all citizens.

Requiring that all citizens provide photo ID to vote creates a barrier to voting and does nothing to protect election security. Maine already has safe and secure policies in place that requires proof of residence and citizenship when registering to vote. It is not necessary to add another layer to this process that could impede access to the ballot. There are many eligible voters here in Maine that may not have the resources or ability to provide additional proof of eligibility. We have many older citizens that do not drive or live in rural communities where it is hard to get to the BMV to get the required ID. For some families, the added cost is simply not something they can afford.

There is no evidence that there is widespread voter fraud here in Maine that would require instituting additional voter ID policies. According to the Attorney General’s office, there were only two cases of voter fraud in the 2020 election in the entire state of Maine¹. Neither of those cases impacted the outcome of the election. We need to be pushing back against election disinformation and the notion that there is widespread voter fraud and work to restore faith in

¹ Hogan, S. (2022, June 5). *Elections officials fight misinformation about Maine's voting security*. The Maine Monitor. Retrieved February 4, 2023, from <https://www.themainemonitor.org/misinformation-seeks-to-cast-doubts-on-security-of-maines-elections-in-2022/>



our elections process instead of adding additional costs and complications to the process of voting for all eligible voters.

The legislature should do all it can to protect the fundamental right to vote for all citizens and make the process easier, not harder. Therefore, Defend Our Health urges the committee to unanimously vote “ought not to pass” on LD 34.

Thank you for your time.