

Nicole Grohoski  
Senator, District 7



P.O. Box 1732  
Ellsworth, ME 04605

**THE MAINE SENATE**  
131st Legislature

**Testimony of Senator Nicole Grohoski**  
**In Support of LD 233, *An Act to Ensure Efficiency in Petitions Reviewed by the Secretary of State by Clarifying Deadlines Related to Those Petitions***

**Before the Committee on Veterans and Legal Affairs**  
**6 February 2023**

Senator Hickman, Representative Supica, and Members of the Joint Standing Committee on Veterans and Legal Affairs, my name is Nicole Grohoski and I represent Senate District 7, which is most of Hancock County. I am speaking today in strong support of LD 233, "An Act to Ensure Efficiency in Petitions Reviewed by the Secretary of State by Clarifying Deadlines Related to Those Petitions."

As many of you know, I am a strong believer in every Maine citizen's right to the petition procedure regarding people's veto referendums and direct initiatives as provided for in the Maine Constitution. In fact, I have been actively involved in seven citizen-initiated campaigns in the past.

I fully support this bill because, as Secretary Bellows will explain, it does not negatively impact a petitioner's ability to gather signatures or have them properly verified. Instead, it gives the Secretary of State's office breathing room when verifying petitions. I have a great deal of respect for our elections division staff, who work very hard to review tens of thousands of signatures in a timely manner. Last fall, they were placed in the unprecedented position of processing petitions from two campaigns while also carrying out their duties before and after Election Day. This resulted in time and resource constraints, and the timing was further complicated by the Veterans Day and Thanksgiving holidays, which should not be considered working days.

This bill has no material impact on petitioners and their Constitutional rights, and would help our hardworking elections staff. Thank you for listening to my testimony in support of LD 233. I would be happy to answer questions.