



Joint Standing Committee on Veterans and Legal Affairs
Testimony of Maine Transgender Network

LD 34: An Act to Require a Person to Show Photographic Identification for the Purpose of Voting

February 6, 2023

Senator Hickman, Representative Supica, and Honorable Members of the Joint Committee on Veterans and Legal Affairs: my name is Quinn Gormley, I am the Executive Director of the Maine Transgender Network, and I am testifying today on behalf of MaineTransNet in opposition to LD 34, "An Act to Require a Person to Show Photographic Identification for the Purpose of Voting."

Similar to many other minoritized communities represented here today, the addition of voter ID requirements would present disproportionate challenges to transgender Mainers attempting to perform their civic responsibilities. According to data from the 2021 Maine Transgender Community Survey, Only 25% of transgender Mainers have a State issued ID that matches their gender identity. Only 22.7% have a State issued ID that lists their chosen name. Only 30% of transgender Mainers have a government issued photo ID that correctly lists either their name or gender marker.

Data collected by the Williams Institute documents a disproportionate level of denial of access to voting experienced by transgender people with incongruent ID's in states with Voter ID requirements. Transgender voters were more likely to be challenged on their identity than cisgender voters when registering to vote or when seeking to vote. They also documented lower rates of voting among eligible voters who are transgender in these states.

In all cases, these impacts were especially pronounced among transgender voters of color, with disabilities, youth, and older adults.

The disproportionate impact of voter ID laws on minority populations are well documented and well known to advocacy groups and legislators who routinely push similar legislation. They offer no meaningful rebuttal to these concerns because these concerns are why they push these policies in the first place. The voters who will be impacted by these bills, by and large, weren't going to vote for the elected officials who support these bills. The disenfranchisement is the point. This is an attempt to deny minority communities a voice in our democracy while systematically empowering elected officials whose ideas do not produce majorities when our democracy has full participation.

This bill is craven, harmful, and a bad choice for Maine. Which is why we have repeatedly defeated similar legislation in recent years. I urge you to vote *ought not to pass* on this and all similar legislation.

Thank You,

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she/her
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Sources:

Gormley, Q., Jones, O. G., & Williams, M. (2021). (rep.). *Maine Transgender Community Survey Data Complete Report*. Maine Transgender Network INC. Retrieved from https://reporting.alchemer.com/r/701290_615f7ab920f285.88687302.

O'Kniell, K et.al. (2023, January 6). *The potential impact of voter identification laws on transgender voters in the 2022 general election*. Williams Institute. Retrieved February 5, 2023, from <https://williamsinstitute.law.ucla.edu/publications/trans-voter-id-impact/>