

Amy Fuller
Augusta
LD 1578

Dear Members of the Veterans and Legal Affairs Committee,

I am writing in support of L.D. 1578, and believe it should be passed as quickly as possible.

I've seen a lot of Maine GOP legislators railing against this proposed bill, insisting we must adhere to the original "intent" of the Constitution and claiming the Founding Fathers would not approve of this bill. I strongly disagree. Though he was in France at the time of the Constitutional Convention, Thomas Jefferson played a large role in its crafting via his correspondence with the framers (especially James Madison). This is a quote from the Jefferson Memorial in Washington D.C., straight from Jefferson himself: "I am not an advocate for frequent changes in laws and constitutions, but laws and institutions must go hand in hand with the progress of the human mind. As that becomes more developed, more enlightened, as new discoveries are made, new truths discovered and manners and opinions change, with the change of circumstances, institutions must advance also to keep pace with the times. We might as well require a man to wear still the coat which fitted him when a boy as civilized society to remain ever under the regimen of their barbarous ancestors."

Twice in recent history, the Electoral College has been won by candidates who didn't win the popular vote: George W. Bush and Donald J. Trump. It's no coincidence, imho, that these two men are also consistently ranked amongst the worst presidents in U.S. history. Trump especially is exactly the kind of candidate the Founding Fathers feared the "unwashed masses" would wrongly install, and this was the reason they created the Electoral College as a check. Unfortunately, the EC failed both times to ignore the masses and choose the better candidate. So, I believe we are left with no other option than to start doing things a different way - to ignore our "barbarous ancestors".

In the future, I would like to see the Electoral College stop being a "winner takes all" model so that we could perhaps have coalition-style governments like they do in Europe (as the two-party system is clearly not working for our country, because our conservatives are further right than many conservative parties elsewhere in the world). While this bill does not address this issue, I would love to see someone suggest a similar campaign for it someday.

Thank you for your time,

Amy Fuller