

Carmen LaHaye
Ellsworth
LD 734

March 11, 2025

Chair Rafferty and Chair Murphy and the distinguished members of the Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs.

My name is Carmen LaHaye, I am 18 years old, and a senior at Ellsworth High School. I am an active member of the League of Women Voters Youth Council and Maine Youth Power. I am here today to ask that you support Representative McCabe's bill; LD 734 An Act to Promote Voter Registration for Students in Maine's High Schools.

I feel strongly that high schools should offer voter registration drives. Voting can be very confusing and frustrating to a first time voter. Registration is confusing and can be a barrier to voting. People show up to the polls ready to vote only to find out they're not registered. People who do not have a driver's license may have never been asked about registration before, because they have not been to the BMV. In my school curriculum, we do not learn anything about how to vote, and a lot of seniors are 18 and eligible to. Offering voter registration and education drives at every Maine high school should increase the amount of young people who vote. This bill would provide access to registration for every student regardless of their background. High school is supposed to set students up for the next phase of their lives, and voting is one of our civil duties.

As a young Mainer and someone who recently voted for the first time, I urge you all to support Representative McCabe's bill LD 734 An Act to Promote Voter Registration for Students in Maine's High Schools.

Thank you for your time

Carmen LaHaye