

Jay McCreight
Harpwell, Maine 04079

Testimony in Opposition to LD 1149, **An Act to Require an Individual to Present Photographic Identification for the Purpose of Voting**
Friday, May 2, 2025

Senator Hickman, Representative Supica, Esteemed Members of the Veterans and Legal Affairs Committee, I am Jay McCreight of Harpswell, a former member of the VLA Committee. I served in the House of Representatives from 2015 to 2022 and served two of my four terms on VLA.

I urge you in the strongest possible terms to vote **Ought Not To Pass** on LD 1149, a destructive, deceitful and patently unnecessary bill.

Regardless of continual debunking of claims of voter fraud - claims made with stubborn frequency in recent years through the constant stream of misinformation - attempts to pass bills claiming to address a problem that doesn't exist keep being brought before your committee. Like other bills before it, this bill needs to be defeated in order to protect voters' rights.

On the voter ID aspect alone, this bill is a clear and simple voter suppression attempt. It would not only suppress many voter's rights to participate in elections through it's provisions that specifically target marginalized communities including women, anyone who has changed their name and people living in poverty. No, it's not simple for everyone to get an ID, regardless of claims being made that it is easy or free. I implore you to consider other life circumstances than your own when you consider making it harder to be able to vote.

But requiring voter ID isn't all this bill attempts to do. It's dishonest in it's presentation as a "voter ID bill." Even if you think it's a good idea to require those intending to exercise their right to vote to show an ID every time they vote - I don't, and it isn't - this bill would do so much more harm than that. It would eliminate ongoing absentee voting. It would eliminate or reduce many of the positive and successful voter access steps taken during the pandemic that are proven to help people exercise their rights such as convenient local access to secure voter drop-boxes.

Proven over and over in court and in studies conducted here and elsewhere in the Country, fraud isn't the issue. Restricting voter access is the true intent of efforts like this. Why restrict voter access? Good question. The harm it would do only demonstrates that the intent is to determine who gets to vote and who doesn't in violation of our rights.

I don't want barriers; I want people to have free and fair access to their right to vote. Our system of government depends on it.

Respectfully, this bill should not go forward. Please vote Ought Not to Pass.

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