

Anne M. Gallaudet
Scarborough, Maine

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Re: LD 38, An Act Requiring Photographic Identification for Voting; LD 397 – An Act to Require a Voter to Show Photographic Identification; LD 1149: An Act to Require an Individual to Present Photographic Identification for the Purpose of Voting

Senator Hickman, Representative Supica and Honorable Members of the Joint Standing Veterans and Legal Affairs Committee

My name is Anne Gallaudet. I am a resident of Scarborough, Maine. I have voted continuously for over 50 years. I write *in opposition of* LD 38, LD 397 and LD 1149.

All three bills mandate a Photo ID to register to vote or vote: Mainers have a long history of strong consistent voter turnout with no demonstrable fraud. In all three bills under consideration, the type of fraud being addressed by mandating photographic identification is *nonexistent* and thus demands **no** remedy. Requiring a photographic identification to register to vote and/or vote is a waste of time and money and, worse, suppresses the right to vote by Maine residents, particularly impacting Seniors, individuals with disabilities, students at our colleges and universities, indigenous people and rural voters.

Notably, these bills *exclude* several currently accepted IDs such as student and tribal IDs, impacting significant populations in Maine and yet there is no plausible basis for such exclusion other than to suppress the vote. An *unexpired* US Passport is one of the acceptable photo IDs, but again a large segment of the Maine voting populace do not have such photo IDs. Moreover, to qualify for a substitute would be costly and time consuming and require an upfront effort – all resulting in *suppressing votes* by, in part, disproportionately negatively impacting more vulnerable populations as noted above *and for no other purpose*.

Termination ongoing absentee ballot status: Eliminating the right to ongoing absentee ballot usage is outrageous. There is no legitimate basis for such a proposal. First, I want to note that LD 1149 proposes the two awful changes to voting discussed here, but its *title* only addresses the first – requiring a photo ID to register to vote. I find the title's silence as to this second aim – ending ongoing absentee ballot status – deceitful.

Seniors and individuals with disabilities can effectuate their right to vote through this helpful opportunity. To discontinue it, is an act of disenfranchisement. I am one of those Senior citizens who currently enjoys ongoing absentee ballot status.

LD 1149 removes provisions of the law that allow voters to make telephone applications for absentee ballots which will severely impact older voters, voters with disabilities, voters without transportation and/or funds, rural voters and voters without internet. It

further forbids ongoing absentee ballot status which I currently have. The other two bills presumably do the same.

LD 1149 also presents a highly complicated, cumbersome and time-consuming administrative process for executing its many additional ideas to suppress votes, ideas that only remind me of bureaucracy for the sake of bureaucracy, a la "1984" by George Orwell, and "Catch-22" by Joseph Heller. Mainers have no need for such an unnecessary but costly convoluted system whose sole justification is the suppression of voting as there is no probative evidence in Maine of widespread fraud in voting.

Indeed, Maine taxpayers will be on the hook for this unjustified new voting system.

This proposed voter suppression system, imported from states outside of Maine, is bent on disenfranchising voters. There is no outcry in Maine for this proposed system because we do not support wasteful spending that disenfranchises voters and because it is based on a non-existent problem.

Thank you for considering my comment. Please vote "ought not to pass" on LD 38, LD 397 and LD 1149.

Anne Gallaudet,
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