

Lisa Belanger  
North Yarmouth  
LD 1149

RE: LD 1149 — An Act to Require an Individual to Present Photographic  
Identification for the Purpose of Voting

Dear Senator Hickman, Representative Supica, and members of the Joint Standing  
Committee on Veterans and Legal Affairs,

My name is Lisa Belanger, and I live in North Yarmouth. I am submitting testimony in opposition of LD 1149. I oppose this bill because my husband and I are both seniors who have much appreciated the opportunity to cast absentee ballots, for a variety of reasons. As we continue to age, the ability to continue to practice our civil right and responsibility without hindrance becomes even more important. The voting restrictions that are being proposed in this bill do less to prevent fraud than they do to suppress voter participation. It hurts my husband and I as older voters but it also hurts young and rural voters as well. I suspect that the origins of this bill came from outside the state and money that is being raised for the very purpose of suppressing voting rights. From what I understand, Maine has one of the highest voter turnout rates in the nation. Why then are we trying to fix a system that isn't broken? Let's instead be proud of our great state and our secure election process by rejecting this clearly counterproductive bill. Thank you.