

Matthew Schaefer
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LD 1149

My name is Matthew Schaefer. I am a resident of Portland. I write to urge you to vote "ought not to pass" on LD 1149. Maine has a proud tradition of expanding access to the ballot. LD 1149 would, in contrast, curtail access and harm seniors, rural residents, people with disabilities, working people, and other ordinary Mainers who rely on absentee voting to facilitate their exercise of the right to vote. While these harms are certain to result from the measure, the purported problems the measure seeks to address are phantom menaces, unsupported by evidence of any material vulnerability to the integrity of our elections. The same is true of the disingenuous asserted "need" for voter ID. The legislature should certainly not adopt measures that hinder voting to respond to nonexistent, hypothetical risks. Mainers will turn out to defeat this terrible measure at the polls in November. This committee must vote Ought Not To Pass.