

TO: Senator Hickman, Representative Supica, and members of the Joint Standing Committee on Veterans and Legal Affairs
FROM: Faith Barnes, 15 Beech Dr., Brunswick, ME
RE: LD 1149 - An Act to Require an individual to Present photographic identification for there Purpose of Voting

Dear Senator Hickman, Representative Supica, and members of the Joint Standing Committee on Veterans and Legal Affairs,
My name is Faith Barnes, and I live in Brunswick. I am testifying in opposition of LD 1149.

Maine currently has strong voting rights. We are a leader in the nation. Our small, rural, working-class state has one of the highest voter turnout rates in the country. That's something to be proud of. We rank this high because of our secure elections, same-day voter registration, no-excuse absentee ballots, and no photo ID laws required to vote.

I oppose LD 1149 for many reasons:

1. It would require photo ID to vote and to vote absentee, and it would exclude a number of currently accepted IDs (like student and tribal IDs).
2. It is also an attack on absentee voting.
 - It will repeal ongoing absentee voting, where a voter can sign up to have an absentee ballot mailed to them automatically for each election cycle.
 - It limits the use and number of absentee ballot drop boxes to the point where some towns may find it impractical to offer them.
 - It makes it impossible for voters to request an absentee ballot over the phone.
 - It prevents an authorized third party from delivering an absentee ballot, a service that many elderly and disabled Mainers rely on.

These restrictions will:

- Harm every type of voter, with **senior and rural voters experiencing the worst of the disenfranchisement.**
- Be costly - putting Maine taxpayers on the hook to pay for a new system.
- Not prevent voter fraud. All of the evidence suggests that voter IDs don't prevent voter fraud. Maine has safeguards in place to prevent fraud, cyber attacks, and other kinds of foul play that would attempt to subvert our elections.

In addition to the above:

- This proposal seems to be imported to Maine from an out-of-state playbook that just doesn't fit Maine.
- Thousands of dollars are being raised from out-of-state donors in order to push this on Maine voters.

I will end this letter where I started. **Maine has strong voting rights. We are a leader in the nation. Our small, rural, working-class state has one of the highest voter turnout rates in the country. That's something to be proud of. We rank this high because of our secure elections, same-day voter registration, no-excuse absentee ballots, and no photo ID laws required to vote.**

I urge the committee to oppose this bill. Thank you for your time and for the opportunity to offer my testimony.