

Ann Dodd-Collins
Portland
LD 1149

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

My name is Ann Dodd-Collins and I live in Portland. I am writing in opposition to LD 1149 "An Act to Require an Individual to Present Photographic Identification for the purpose of voting".

Maine has one of the highest rates of voter turnout in the country because we make it easy for people to vote, and that is something we should be proud of. Maine has strong voting rights and no history of voter fraud. There are safeguards in place to make sure our elections are secure. This bill is an attempt to solve a problem that doesn't exist. What it WILL do is make it difficult for those who do not have a driver's license, a state ID, or a passport (none of which are free) to vote. Putting restrictions on absentee balloting makes it difficult, if not impossible, for people who are disabled, who are working during the hours the polls are open, or who live in rural areas to vote. As an example, when I was teaching, my school district scheduled parent/teacher conferences on election day. Without access to an absentee ballot, I would have been unable to vote.

Please vote Ought NOT to Pass on LD 1149.

Thank you.