

Cynthia Marten  
South Portland  
LD 1149

The Honorable Craig Hickman  
The Honorable Laura Supica, Co-Chairs  
Members of the Joint Standing Committee on Veterans and Legal Affairs

My name is Cynthia Marten, and I live in South Portland.

I am urging you to vote no on bill LD 1149. The problems in this bill are the requirements of voter ID proposed and the baseless scrutiny on absentee voting requiring voter ID.

I see photo ID requirements as a potential problem for high school and university students, as well as absentee voters.

Voters choose to use the absentee option for many reasons, maybe they have had surgery, maybe they are scheduled to work on that day, maybe they have some physical challenges that may become difficult with a snow storm in November. We don't need to know why people choose to vote absentee but we need to give them the opportunity to do so and with ease.

Maine's voters are aging and some are aging in place in very rural areas.

I moved from Iowa in 2023 and my understanding is that Maine has one of the highest voter turnout in the country. Mainers have been able to do this because of the ease of voter registration, no excuse absentee ballots, and no photo ID laws.

Using a playbook from another state, will not work well in Maine. Maine already has a system that works.