

May 2, 2025

To the Honorable Craig Hickman and Honorable Laura Supica, CoChairs

and Members of the Joint Standing Committee on Veterans and Legal Affairs

RE: LD1149-An Act to Require an Individual to Present Photographic ID 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 Gail Witherill, I live in Cumberland, and I am testifying in opposition of LD 1149. LD 1149 is a smokescreen for a problem that does not exist. Our system of voting has integrity, is secure, and well run, as well as easy to use so there is no excuse not to vote. We have same day voter registration, no excuse absentee ballots and early voting, the result being that Maine has one of the highest voter turnouts in the country. Voting by folks who are not eligible to vote is almost nonexistent. Second, with all the budgetary concerns, should this bill pass, the fiscal note indicates it will cost over \$1 million dollars the first year of implementation. Taxpayers don't like to see tax dollars wasted and spending over \$1 million dollars on a non-existent problem is truly a waste. Third, putting restrictions on absentee voting and numbers of secure ballot drop off boxes in a municipality is an underhanded way to make it more difficult to vote. Vote NO on LD 1149.

Thank you for your time and attention.

Gail Witherill

Cumberland