

DATE: April 29, 2025

TO: The Honorable Craig Hickman, Co-Chair

The Honorable Laura Supica, Co-Chair

Members of the Joint Standing Committee on Veterans and Legal Affairs

RE: LD 1149 – An Act to Require an Individual to Present Photographic Identification for the Purpose of Voting

Dear Sen. Hickman, Rep. Supica, and members of the Joint Standing Committee on Veterans and Legal Affairs,

Good evening. I'm writing to urge the committee to oppose LD 1149.

I am a life-long Mainer from West Paris, and I am very concerned about the changes this bill is proposing. The proposed changes will disenfranchise many rural, elderly, and disabled Mainers from their Constitutional right to vote.

Absentee voting is incredibly important for this population, and they should be able to request ongoing absentee ballots (and request this over the phone), without the added burden of needing to request this in-person for each election. The extra aggravation, time, and expense of having to obtain a photo ID is especially challenging for this same population. Many do not drive, so they will need assistance to obtain a photo ID, which is an added burden to them and those that help them. In addition, limiting the number of ballot boxes seems especially cruel and unnecessary, and will negatively impact those in our communities that have the largest struggles already. Lastly, allowing only 4 days for ballot curing is woefully insufficient. That means that these folks, who may have had to take time off from work on Tuesday to vote, will now need to take more time off work again during the same work-week to obtain/find the required documentation and then travel to their clerk's office during the work day to provide this documentation, ultimately losing more time at work to do something that is their Constitutional right in the first place, at significant expense to them. This is unacceptable.

Maine's voting history has been consistently secure and there was very high turnout in 2024.

For the will of the people to be known, they need to be able to vote. Please **oppose LD 1149**.

Thank you for your time reading my testimony.

Misty L. Yates
West Paris, Maine
4/30/2025