

Eleanor Falby
Portland
LD 1149

RE: LD 1149 — An Act to Require an Individual to Present Photographic Identification 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 Eleanor Falby, and I live in Portland, ME. I am testifying in opposition of LD 1149. I oppose this bill because it would require photo IDs to vote and it would exclude a number of currently accepted IDs (like student and tribal IDs). I know a number of 18 year olds, friends of my daughter, who don't have driver's licenses or state IDs. I believe they should still be allowed to vote. For those whose birthdays occur right before the election. There is no time to even get a state ID. Especially with the push for Real IDs clogging yo the BMVs across the state.

I also have a number of clients who vote absentee due to disabilities. They need to be able to request a ballot by phone.

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. This proposal seems to be imported to Maine from an out-of-state playbook (see the latest Ohio voter suppression law) that just doesn't fit Maine. Additionally, thousands of dollars are being raised from out-of-state donors in order to push this on Maine voters. I was asked to sign a petition to support this as a referendum at my in person voting place in 2024. It sounded so innocent, but I declined, suspecting the population it might hurt. I was totally right. I wonder how many people signed that petition ignorantly, with the best of intentions.

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

Thank you for doing this important work!
Eleanor L Falby