

Jenny Donovan
Brunswick
LD 1149

Senator Hickman, Representative Supica and members of the Veterans and Legal Affairs Committee my name is Jenny Donovan, and I am from Brunswick. Today I ask you to vote ought not to pass on LD 1149 and send this measure to the ballot where voters can reject it.

This bill is nothing short of voter suppression. Women won the vote 105 years ago, and I have no intention of going backward in time. My point is that this will suppress the vote for thousands of women in our state. I legally changed my name 15 years ago. I jumped through all the legal hoops, visited the Social Security Administration to change the name on my card, and did everything I needed to do THEN. The one thing I did not do was change the name on my birth certificate. Who knew my state (and country) would ever try to block my right to vote based on that one thing. You see, all of these other legal entities had to see that information in order for me to make the legal changes I did. So, to make me carry all of that paperwork with me to the polls to prove who I am would be a serious invasion of my privacy. There is no reason for this legislation beyond certain members of our legislature wanting to suppress the vote.

It also clearly suppresses the vote of the elderly and disabled by making it incredibly difficult, if not impossible, for many who rely on absentee voting to participate in an election. It also harms those in deeply rural areas who do not have internet access as it prevents them from calling and requesting an absentee ballot. This legislation is unfair, unjust, unjustified, and cruel.

Please vote ought not to pass on LD 1149 and send this measure to the ballot where voters can reject it.

Thank you for your time and consideration.