

Melissa Murphy
Scarborough
LD 1149

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

DATE: 5/2/2025

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 Melissa Murphy, and I live in Scarborough. I am testifying in opposition
of LD 1149. I have been a member of the League of Women Voters of Maine for 40
years, but this is my first time testifying in person before the Legislature, because I
feel so strongly that this bill will set back our State's hard-won progress in becoming
a national leader in protecting voting rights and access to the ballot.

This bill is so much more dangerous to voting rights and ballot access than its
innocuous sounding name -- it excludes several currently accepted IDs, such as
student and tribal IDs, and attacks absentee voting, which is vital to many Maine
voters, including our most vulnerable citizens. For example, the bill would repeal
ongoing absentee voting, limit the use and number of absentee ballot drop boxes to
the point where some towns may find it impractical to offer them, make it impossible
for voters to request absentee ballots over the phone, and prevent an authorized third
party from delivering an absentee ballot.

These restrictions will harm every type of voter, but as you can see from the noted
repealed provisions and newly prohibited actions, they will be particularly
burdensome to elderly, disabled and rural voters.

In addition to its negative policy implications, this bill would require Maine taxpayers
to pay for a new election system to address a problem that simply does not exist.
Evidence of existing voter fraud is practically non-existent, and Maine has the
safeguards to prevent such fraud, cyber attacks and other attempts to subvert our
elections.

For all of these reasons, I urge you to join me in opposition to this bill and to keep
Maine from going backward and severely damaging our citizens' voting rights and
ballot access, which are models for the nation. Thank you.