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

DATE: May 2nd, 2025

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

I appreciate the opportunity to submit testimony in strong opposition to LD 1149.

Everything about this bill is terrible, starting with the messages that were used to entice Maine people to sign the petition. “Do you want to protect Maine elections?” I was repeatedly asked by zealous signature gatherers.

A more accurate pitch would have been, “do you want to upend Maine elections by erecting new barriers to voting?”

Why make it harder to vote? Why shorten the time for in-person absentee voting? Why impose new burdens on everyone who relies on absentee ballots in order to vote from home? Why get rid of provisions that provide convenience to older and disabled voters?

I count thirteen blanks that must be filled in on the new “identification envelope” that will come with every absentee ballot. We know from states that already have many of these burdensome provisions that every additional and unnecessary requirement is just another opportunity to trip up voters. There are too many chances for minor mistakes that could invalidate a ballot.

This bill is the classic solution in search of a problem. Maine does elections right. We have plenty of accountability measures built in to our registration and voting systems. Voters benefit from the choices we have — to vote early, to vote from home, to register and vote in person on Election Day, to get an absentee ballot at the last minute if something comes up that will keep us from the polls. And we help each other as needed. These choices mean that, one way or another, eligible voters are able to cast a ballot in every election if they choose to do so.

There is no doubt that if this bill becomes law, the elections that follow will be a nightmare of confusion for voters and everyone involved with running elections. The awful disenfranchisement and voter suppression that we seen in many other states will have officially arrived in Maine, as unwelcome as green crabs, brown tail moths, and invasive milfoil.

Please reject LD 1149 and send it to voters while we still have free, fair, and inclusive elections unburdened by these ridiculous provisions.