

Kerri Sands
Mount Desert
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: May 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 Kerri Sands. I was raised in Carmel, Maine, have lived in nine Maine towns, and now live in Mount Desert. I am testifying in opposition of LD 1149. I oppose this bill because it severely degrades our absentee voting system here in Maine. We are the state with the oldest population and the second-most rural population, yet we have the third-highest voter participation rate. This is something to be extraordinarily proud of!

Having lived in very rural, very urban, and suburban areas in Maine, I can say that access to absentee ballots benefits all of us, but it is especially important to our rural and elderly community members. Please do not degrade access to voting by reducing ballot dropbox use, removing our ability to request absentee ballots by phone, and preventing elderly and disabled people from getting help in delivering their ballots. Every single person who is eligible to vote should be able to use our current highly successful and secure systems. I urge the committee to oppose this bill. Thank you for the opportunity to submit my testimony.

Sincerely,
Kerri Sands