

Terry Baker  
Bradley, Maine  
LD 1149

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on LD 1149, requiring photo ID for the purpose of voting. I have been a resident of Maine for almost 20 years, and I am proud of our record for one of the highest voter turnout rates in the country. In recent times, during the controversy over possible voter fraud, I personally examined the safeguards and security measures around voting in Maine and found it to be one of the most secure systems. As to allegations of fraud, no evidence has ever been presented to support these claims, and Maine, along with the U.S. as a whole, has been assessed to have the most secure elections in modern times. There has never been an instance of fraud that even remotely affected the outcome of any election.

LD 1149 does much more than require photo ID every time a person votes. It alters the absentee voting regulations that many in our large, rural state depend upon in order to participate in the voting process. It particularly affects the elderly and those living in remote, rural sections of the state. It limits drop boxes, mail in ballots, and phone in requests for ballots and places an extra burden on small towns like Bradley, where I live.

Ballots are coded and tracked to prevent fraud. These measures are just part of the safeguards that Maine has to prevent fraud, cyber attacks, and other attempts to influence and subvert the voting process. All of the evidence suggests that voter IDs do not prevent voter fraud.

LD 1149 appears to be an effort by out-of-state influences to suppress the open voting system in our state while requiring Maine taxpayers to foot the bill. Those forces have certainly funneled large amounts of money into the state in support of this legislation as part of a larger effort to make it more difficult for citizens to vote.

With these perspectives in mind, I ask that you vote to not forward this bill for consideration. I have been a volunteer to count votes on election night for local referendums and have personally seen the effectiveness of the system. It is not a system that needs to have additional burdens placed upon the voter.

Again, thank you for the opportunity to present testimony in opposition to this bill.

Terry A. Baker  
Bradley, Maine