



Community Organizing Alliance Testimony in Opposition to LD 1149

Senator Hickman, Representative Supica, and members of the Veterans and Legal Affairs Committee: I'm Scott Turcotte from Community Organizing Alliance, a youth civic engagement organization based in Lewiston. We ask you to vote ought not to pass on LD 1149.

This legislation would undermine the democratic process in our state, making it harder for Mainers to vote by eliminating opportunities for absentee voting and by enacting unnecessary barriers for voter identification that would specifically disenfranchise new Mainers and college students. This legislation would make it harder for voters to return their ballots and would place unnecessary and unrealistically burdensome new procedures for election officials. Given the sweeping nature of these changes to the way we vote in Maine, we must allow voters the opportunity to reject these restrictions in November.

This legislation would suggest that these new restrictions are necessary to protect against the threat of voter fraud, but we know that this is a problem that just doesn't exist. Maine's elections are already among the most secure and well-managed in the country. There is no evidence of widespread voter fraud in our state, and our voter registration process and existing checks at the polls already ensure that only eligible voters are able to cast a ballot. As reflected in our nation-leading voter turnout rates, Mainers are proud of our electoral system, the volunteers who manage it, and of our strong voter protections. This legislation would undermine those protections in pursuit of an unnecessary solution to an imagined problem.

Mainers deserve fair and equitable voting rights, and we deserve the opportunity to make our voices heard on this issue in November. For these reasons, we ask you to vote ought not to pass on LD 1149.