

Veterans & Legal Affairs Committee
February 6, 2023

LD34: An Act to Require a Person to Show Photographic Identification for the Purpose of Voting

Goodmorning Senator Hickman, Representative Supica and honorable members of this committee. My name is Holly Swartz, I am a resident of Union and here today to testify in favor of LD34.

The foundation of our Democratic Republic rests upon the citizens of this country having a confidence in our election system. Since our inception, citizens have had complaints regarding voting rights, many many justifiable. Our system was improved over time and we are needing another adjustment. As life has become more complicated, including the use of Absentee Ballots, the extension of voting days, considerations of pandemic voting and the increase of a non-citizen population, we must ensure that each vote is legitimate. The confidence of our Democratic Republic, my confidence in voting, requires it. Most of the people in my circle do not have any confidence in our election system. I majored in Political Science in college; I worked for USDA in college; I have been to many pro-choice protests in my day. I am very active and strongly believe in voting - and I have lost confidence in our system.

Participation in our Republic is tantamount. I believe that voter fraud occurs on a regular basis from both sides of the isle. I do not care what party politic anyone is from in this matter. We require a photo id for much less important situations, like adopting a pet. We need a photo id in this country to do the following: buy alcohol, open a bank account, apply for Food Stamps and Welfare, apply for Medicaid and Social Security, rent or buy a house, flying on a plane, getting married, purchasing a gun, adopting a pet, renting a hotel room, buying a cell phone, picking up prescription medication, visiting a casino, holding a protest, donating blood, purchasing tobacco, applying for unemployment benefits. Most people find a way to get what they need in order to do what they want.

Thirty-five states require or request some form of ID. I believe 11 states have what would be considered "strict" voter id laws. Maine is a leader in the country. Please allow us to lead by firming up our election system confidence and showing the rest of the nation that this is a logical, non-partisan component to voting.