

Senator Chair Craig Hickman, Representative Chair Laura Supica and honorary members of the Joint Standing Committee on Veteran and Legal Affairs, thank you for your time.

My name is Kristina Parker and I am 18 years old, but please do not allow yourself to dismiss what I have to say because of my youth.

LD 1578 is a concerning bill. For a moment, I'd like for us all to analyze the electoral college, and why it exists. Our government was specifically crafted to have checks and balances with the purpose of preventing tyranny and establishing liberty. The electoral college's construction exemplifies this.

They created the three branches, one of which was the executive. One delegate at the Constitutional Convention said that the Executives are to be elected only by the legislature, while another proposed pure popular vote. Someone even suggested that the president would be determined by lots. Which is truly absurd and the opposite of democracy. Yet a trace of this same idea is found in LD1578. These were dismissed because a legislative election would lead to corruption and the popular vote would drown out smaller state's voices. I need not explain why lots were a bad idea. They then decided on an electoral college. The number of electoral college votes each state had would be directly related to its population. This gives a say to every state. Any other way would lead to chaos. For 200 years this has worked perfectly fine for our state and for our country.

Maine only has 4 electoral college votes. I see 4/538 as a better choice than if Maine were merely to follow the national popular vote total. In 2022, there were 1,039,517 voters in Maine. In the United States, there were 168.42 million. Individual Maine citizens will no longer have a say in who their president will be. This bill is not good for our state.

Please consider where the idea of an "Interstate Compact to Elect the President of the United States by National Popular Vote" originated. It came from California. The countries #1 leader of bad ideas and largest population by 9 million people. Which itself is over 7 times the size of our entire state. They make up 10% of the electoral college total. They do not need to worry about their voice being extinguished like Maine does. In order for Maine to continue to be significant in this country's government, we need the electoral college.

I understand this bill is not technically "getting rid of the electoral college." However, the origination of where our electoral college votes would come from would not be from Maine, it would merely be the national popular vote. This destroys the very principle that voting and democracy is built on. The proponents of this bill want to abolish the electoral college and in turn, democracy.

Please vote down LD1578. Thank you for your time. 6