

To: The Honorable Craig Hickman, the Honorable Laura Supica, Co-Chairs, Members of the Joint Standing Committee on Veterans and Legal Affairs

Date: 5/2/2025

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 Sandra Thomas, and I live in Bremen. I am testifying in opposition to LD1149. I oppose this bill because the elements of the bill simply make it more difficult to vote and process votes. Maine has an exceptional record for voter turnout and almost no evidence of fraudulent voting. I volunteer to assist with elections at my town office in Bremen. I am extremely impressed by the very careful and thorough systems in place to ensure the integrity of our votes and the election. This bill will needlessly burden voters who vote through the absentee process and will also add unnecessary steps for the town to process votes. This seems to me to be a solution in search of a non-existent problem—and a potentially expensive 'solution'.

I would also like to add a comment that I think our state legislators (and those in D.C.) should take into consideration. While we seem to be making extraordinary and, in many cases, ill considered cuts to our state and federal budgets I would ask that the legislators spend less time introducing bills like this. It seems to me that this simply adds to the legislative workload unnecessarily and you surely have more important work to do..

Thank you for your consideration.