

Hello Senator Hickman, Representative Supica, and esteemed members of the joint standing committee on Veterans and Legal Affairs. My name is Alex Wu, and I am a Scarborough High School Senior. I oppose the variety of voter ID bills proposed today.

According to data from Tufts University's CIRCLE, Maine youth had the second highest voter participation in the nation in the 2024 election at 60%. Our elections are some of the best in the nation because they are accessible. We pre-register youth at 16 when they obtain their drivers license or at. We allow flexible options for absentee voting and voting in advance. Our same-day registration enables new voters with ID to register at our ballot boxes and take part in our democracy. We are proud of our elections and rightfully so. We have worked incredibly hard to make Maine's democracy incredibly robust and easy for voters.

Voter ID, however, limits which people and how people vote. It shows us that legislators want to pick and choose who can vote them into office, instead of letting us voters decide who best represents us. If you have any respect for the sanctity of our elections, for everybody getting representatives who genuinely care about them, then please oppose this bill.

These bills are issues in search of a problem. Supposedly voter ID solves voter fraud issues by presenting photo ID. The idea is that voters impersonate another. But according to the Brennan Center, the rate of voter impersonation is .00004% out of every ballot cast. That's 4 people out of every 10 million ballots, who are then also immediately apprehended. When voter fraud happens, our government finds it and makes sure it. Our elections are already safe and secure. Instead what these bills do is create a problem for us voters. Photo ID prevents many students from voting, and limits the reason Maine's democracy is so great. Absentee voting and other processes to make our elections better are nigh impossible with voter ID law, and would make our elections much worse.

Beyond that, verification costs thousands of taxpayer dollars. Taxpayer dollars you would be wasting for, again, an issue that does not exist. Our election workers already labor incredibly hard to make sure our democracy is safe and secure. Adding this additional burden would require more labor and incur costs on voters for no reason. It is an insult to waste our money instead of bringing that back in the form of other services for the people.

Let's become the very best in the nation. Let's continue improving our elections, and make it easier for everybody who can vote to actually vote. Let everybody know that dirigo, I lead, isn't just for show. I urge you to vote ought not to pass on this bill.