

Tessa Burpee
Brewer

Dear Senator Luchini, Representative Caiazzo and Members of the Veterans & Legal Affairs Committee,

My name is Tessa Burpee and I live in Brewer. I am writing to oppose LD 1051.

Voting is one of the most important responsibilities we have in America and it should not be taken lightly or for granted. It is our opportunity to help determine who will represent us at a local, state and national level, what laws will be passed and how our government will be run. It requires a certain level of maturity, understanding and responsibility.

Maine law regards sixteen year olds as minors. They are legally under the care of their parents or guardians and must have their permission to do a range of activities — from school trips to getting a driver's learner permit to getting their ears pierced. Consider this notice from a local piercing business:

“Minors must be accompanied by their parent or legal guardian who must be able to provide their state-issued photo ID and the minor's full birth certificate to establish their legal relationship. This isn't our choice or policy, it is required by Maine law.”

Maine law further states that sixteen year olds cannot legally purchase alcohol or tobacco, get a tattoo or enter legal contracts. If sixteen year olds are not considered mature enough to legally make any of these decisions, which affect only their own lives, they should not be allowed to vote and have an impact on the lives of others.

Sixteen year olds cannot serve in the military. If they aren't old enough to serve and defend our country, they are not old enough to vote for how it should be run.

Please vote “ought not to pass” on LD 1051.

Respectfully,
Tessa Burpee