

CONCERNED
WOMEN *for* AMERICA
LEGISLATIVE ACTION COMMITTEE

Statement by
Penny Morrell, State Director
Concerned Women for America of Maine
For Concerned Women for America LAC

To Members of the Veterans and Legal Affairs Committee

Regarding L.D. 580,

RESOLUTION, Proposing an Amendment to the Constitution of Maine Regarding Early Voting

March 8, 2021

Sen. Luchini, Rep. Caiazzo, and members of the Veterans and Legal Affairs Committee thank you for the opportunity to appear before you today. I'm Penny Morrell, State Director of Concerned Women for America of Maine, speaking for Concerned Women for America LAC.

Concerned Women for America (CWA) is the largest public policy women's organization in the nation, with hundreds of thousands of members across the country.

CWA of Maine opposes LD 580, a resolution that would propose an amendment to the Constitution of Maine regarding early voting.

There seems to be a propensity today to amend our Maine Constitution for any and all reasons. Just this session, there is this bill and L.D.s 344, 706, 733 and others. Amending the Constitution is a very significant proposition and should not be entered into lightly. In Maine, the pathway to do so is cumbersome and not easily done for a reason. It is to secure the integrity of the process and the necessity for the change.

CWA of Maine is especially concerned about adopting laws that potentially could enable fraud and/or abuse in our election process. As we saw in the November election, early voting, ballots being mailed out to some folks more than once, mailed to dead people, and some with no verification of the right to vote, early voting was a problem. We believe voting should be done under strict scrutiny at every level, wanting every person eligible to vote to do so and wanting to eliminate the possibility of ineligible persons voting.

We support absentee voting but believe it should be done mostly when the voter is unable to go to the polls on Election Day because that is the easiest and best way to avoid discrepancies. An amendment to our State Constitution opens the possibility for overuse and the possibility of expanding ways to cheat.

We ask this committee to vote "ought not to pass" on L.D. 580. Thank you.