



Emily F. Scully  
City Clerk

Date: March 3, 2021

To: Senator Louis J. Luchini, Senate  
Chair Representative Chris  
Caiazzo, House Chair  
And members of the Veterans and Legal Affairs Committee

From: Emily Scully, City Clerk, City of South Portland

Re: LD 148 - An Act to Establish Ongoing Absentee Voting  
LD208 – An Act to Expand Access to Absentee Ballots

Senators and Representatives,

I have served the City of South Portland as municipal clerk for the past five years. As a City Clerk, I personally believe that my role is to carry out the law, not to help create it, so I write not to encourage a vote in favor or opposition, but to offer my own personal testimony of elections in the State of Maine and to encourage legislators to thoughtfully consider the impact of LD208 and LD148.

This past election cycle, I saw on the news concerning stories of voter suppression across the nation. For this reason, I am sympathetic to the concerns and ideals that may have caused LD208 and LD148 to come forward. Stories of voter suppression across the nation have rightly warranted an investigative look into each State's election laws and processes, and I commend you for doing this work here in Maine.

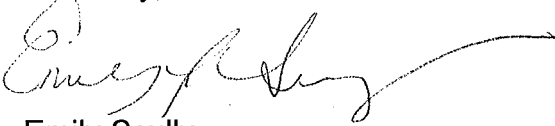
In doing this work, I hope you find recognition that the State of Maine has excellent laws and processes already in place, particularly when compared against the election laws and processes of many other States. I do not recall Maine being on any news story as a State whose current laws and processes are problematic and suppressive to voters. I do not recall a single voter in the City of South Portland (Maine's 4<sup>th</sup> largest City with a population of approximately 25,500) stating they had difficulty requesting an absentee ballot or voting absentee, or difficulty voting at their polling place on Election Day.

I am proud to serve as a municipal clerk in the State of Maine, and I am proud of the history of well managed elections in this State, and the current laws and processes that are in place that ensure elections are both secure and accessible to all.

I also think a large reason why elections in Maine have been so well managed is due to the hard work and constant vigilance of recent former Secretary of State Matthew Dunlap and the Division of Elections, who worked for many years to ensure Maine's elections are fair, secure, well-managed and accessible to all. The State's history of commitment to the integrity of election management has made Maine a shining example in the nation -- one that other States should look to when considering how they may improve.

In recognition of my colleagues who oppose LD 208 and LD148, I strongly encourage legislators to listen and understand the reasoning behind the opinion for opposition, and understand that opposition does not stem from a desire to suppress anyone's rights, nor a selfish desire to prevent making the work of the municipal clerk more complex, but a true concern for wanting to ensure the continued fair, secure, and well-managed election processes we already have in this State.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Emily Scully", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Emily Scully  
City Clerk  
City of South Portland, Maine