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Supporting Testimony for LD 1126: An Act To Update the Voter Registration Process by MUUSAN (Maine Unitarian Universalist State Advocacy Network)

Good morning Senator Luchini, Representative Caiazzo and members of the Veterans and Legal Affairs Committee.

My name is Sue Ellen Bordwell. I'm a resident of Yarmouth and here today as a volunteer on behalf of the Maine Unitarian Universalist State Advocacy Network (MUUSAN). I am testifying our support for LD 1126 - An Act To Update the Voter Registration Process. LD 1126 is also know as On-Line Voter Registration.

MUUSAN is a faith network of Unitarian Universalists committed to electoral justice. Our faith calls us to promote, encourage and protect democracy. As Unitarian Universalists, our commitment to democracy is not just political or moral, it grows from our affirmation of the inherent worth and dignity of every person. Dignity grows from having a voice in matters that affect our lives (Rev Susan Gray).

Dignity grows in an electoral process that understands the difference between equality and equity. Equality means that every eligible voter has the same basic right to register to vote. Equity means that every eligible voter has a meaningful **opportunity** to register to vote, despite different challenges resulting from work schedules, or family responsibility, health issues or transportation.

As Unitarian Universalists, we promote compassion, the use of democratic processes, and know that the interdependent web of existence of which we are a part cannot work unless it works for all. In addition to providing the **opportunity** to register for all eligible voters, Online Voter Registration honors the dedication of the staff and the volunteers who work so tirelessly to ensure our safe, secure and transparent electoral system. OVR honors them by saving staff time, reducing errors and can give them back critical time. OVR is about the people and the mechanisms that promote, protect and grow our democracy.

On behalf of MUUSAN, I urge you to pass LD 1126 - An Act To Update the Voter Registration Process.

Submitted by Sue Ellen Bordwell, Democracy In Action Issue Group
Maine Unitarian Universalist State Advocacy Network

Sue Ellen Bordwell
MUUSAN - Democracy In Action Issue Group

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