

Members of Maine's Veterans & Legal Affairs Committee,

Over the past 15 years, online I have:

- Bought, sold, and refinanced houses;
- Withdrawn monies from my IRA;
- Filed income tax forms and paid anything owed;
- Filed for Social Security and Veterans benefits;
- Updated my DoD Security Clearance information;
- Paid bills;
- Signed medical forms;
- Filed complaints; and
- Signed petitions.

I performed all these actions over secure websites. All are accepted ways of doing business and carrying out activities in today's society. What I and millions of others do on a regular basis is considered the norm. None are experimental or considered outlandish. When performed over secure sites, the likelihood of anything inappropriate happening is negligible.

The ability to accomplish these actions online has saved me:

- Time & money;
- Wear and tear on my vehicles allowing me to keep them longer; and
- Garner government benefits to which I am entitled.

But most importantly for me – a Veteran and an elder with medical challenges, these secure online capabilities have sustained and even improved my quality of life.

The right to vote is a fundamental right in our democracy. Anything we can do to improve access to the ballot accentuates our commitment to this right. It strengthens our democracy.

In States that have online voter registration, voter registration rates for 18 to 24 year-olds increased. Studies also found that more online registrants actually vote, compared those in old systems. Other improvements found with online registration:

- Voters have the ability to verify their registration status in real time;
- Registration problems are uncovered before Election Day;
- A reduction in printing, distribution and processing costs;
- A reduction in the risk of clerical errors caused by the manual transcription of paper forms; and
- Increases the accuracy of voter lists.

I urge the State of Maine to enter the 21 Century with the passage of **LD 1126, HP0804, An Act To Update the Voter Registration Process.**

Maureen C Ramsey
765 County Road
Lubec, ME 04652
LL: 207-733-2874