



THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH IN MAINE

Loring House

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April 7, 2021

Senator Luchini, Representative Caiazzo, and Members of the Veterans and Legal Affairs Committee, my name is John Hennessy and I represent the Episcopal Diocese of Maine. I am offering this testimony in **opposition** to LD 253, 557, 1083 and 1099 on behalf of the **Public Policy and Environmental Action Team** from St. Luke's Cathedral in Portland.

The Episcopal Church [recognizes that engaging political processes is an act of Christian stewardship](#), and that voting is an extension of our baptismal covenant. The Episcopal Church calls on all Episcopalians to advocate for voter rights and to encourage voter registration.

We have a gift of democracy which like all gifts needs to be cared for and tended. We believe proposing photo ID requirements is part of a strategy to roll back decades of progress on voting rights. [Studies](#) agree that voter fraud or impersonation attempts to vote are a myth. It is a solution looking for a problem.

The Episcopal Church celebrates those who fought and gave their lives to extend the right to vote to women and people of color. All Episcopalians are encouraged to actively [engage](#) in advocating for voter rights, encouraging voter registration, getting out the vote, and volunteering to assist voters at the polls.

We respectfully request that you reject any attempt to reduce Maine's leadership in voter turnout and instead encourage efforts to expand participation.

Charles Skold, Portland
Sarah Braik, Portland
Meredith Tipton, South Portland
Elizabeth Ring, South Freeport
Heather Murdoch Curry, Peaks Island
Samuel M. Allen, Portland
Richard Farnsworth, Portland
Barbara Ryland, South Portland
Mary Linneman, South Portland
Dan McDonald, Portland
John Leddy, Gorham
Elizabeth Parsons, Portland
Linwood Parsons, Portland
Connie Bingham, Cumberland
Dawn Brennan-Daly, South Portland
Joyce Cassidy, Yarmouth
Kathy Coughlin, Portland