



## 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  
Gus Goodwin, Portland

Chuck Verrill, Brunswick  
Theodore Kanellakis, Camden  
Sally Smith, Freeport  
Rev. Benjamin Shambaugh, Portland  
Martha Payson, South Portland  
Joyce Cassidy, Yarmouth  
Mary Jane Northrop, Yarmouth