



Veterans and Legal Affairs
c/o Karen Montell
State House, Room 437
c/o Legislative Information Office
100 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333

Re: LD557:

Dear Senator Luchini, Representative Caiazzo, and other members of the Veterans and Legal Affairs Committee,

My name is Jerry Marx. I am a resident of Portland and Executive Director of the Maine Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers. There are over 5,000 licensed social workers providing health services to individuals and families throughout the state. In addition, NASW Maine is also a strong supporter of social justice and human rights.

NASW Maine opposes LD557. It is my understanding that LD557 requires the presentation of proof of identity in the form of a photograph identification document when voting in person. Acceptable photograph identification is a current and valid driver's license or nondriver identification card issued in this State, a United States passport, a military identification or a permit to carry a concealed handgun issued in this State if that permit includes a photograph. However, an identification issued by a college or university in this State may not be accepted for voter identification.

NASW Maine opposes this bill because it will make it more difficult for Maine residents to exercise their Constitutional right to vote. Our state elected officials and government agencies should be making it easier for Maine residents to vote, not harder! Furthermore, our younger generations will be the ones dealing with climate change, racism, and public health in the future. We must do everything we can to facilitate their participation in our democratic system of government. For these reasons, I urge all committee members to vote "No" on this bill.

Respectfully submitted,

Jerry Marx, PhD
Executive Director
NASW Maine Chapter
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