



April 20th, 2021

To: The Committee on Veteran and Legal Affairs

RE: Support for LD 1354, Resolve to Study the Establishment of a System of Voting by Mail

First of all thank you to the chairs and the entire Committee on Veteran and Legal Affairs for the opportunity to speak with you today. My name is Rob Booth, and I live in Portland, Maine.

I am here to support LD 1354, A Resolve to Study the Establishment of a System of Voting by Mail both as a Mainer but also as the National Field Director for RepresentUs -- a national, nonpartisan organization focused on making our political system more fair and accessible.

At a time when many states are restricting voters' choices, we commend Maine for traditionally being a leader when it comes to empowering voters while maintaining safe and secure elections for all.

We are encouraged by this effort to study and expansion of our vote by mail system and how similar efforts have worked in other states. We would particularly encourage the study to look towards Colorado's voter choice model which many experts consider to be the gold standard for modern voting systems.

The Colorado policy has three main pillars:

1. **Universal mail ballots:** All voters receive a ballot by mail.
2. **Voter choice:** All voters have the choice to vote by mail or in person.
3. **Access and security:** Streamline, modernize, and secure the voting process, from voter registration to the counting of ballots.

While Colorado is the gold standard -- Hawaii, Oregon, Utah, and Washington all have universal vote by mail systems and five other states (California, Montana, Nevada, New Jersey, and Vermont), implemented temporary universal vote by mail in response to the COVID-19 crisis this past year.

Voter fraud in these vote by mail systems is [extremely rare](#). Colorado [has a very secure system](#), due to its risk-limiting audits and paper ballots, among other policies. In the 20 years since Oregon implemented universal vote by mail, there have been only around [a dozen](#) documented cases of [mail-ballot fraud](#). It is more likely for an American to be struck by lightning than to commit voter fraud.

There are several policies that can be adopted to ensure that our elections are as secure as possible, whether they are conducted by mail or in person. These include an up-to-date voter file, address change database, ERIC membership, Online Voter Registration, and implementing automatic voter registration to ensure that voting rolls are up to date. States can also adopt



[security measures](#) like strong cybersecurity, bar codes for ballot tracking, signature verification, and post-election audits.

In closing, I am urging this committee to support LD 1354 and allow this Study of Vote by Mail Systems to begin. It will continue Maine's strong tradition of being a leader when it comes to voter choice, access, and sensible modernizations to our elections.

Thank you again for your time and I'm happy to answer any questions you may have.

Robert BOOTH  
PORTLAND

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