

5/1/2025

Thank you Senator Hickman, Representative Supica and members of the Veterans and legal affairs Committee my name is Christine Cattan and I am from Eddington, Maine. I am here to ask you to vote ought not to pass on LD1149 and send this measure to the ballot where voters can reject it. This bill is the worst kind. LD1149 not only panders to fear mongering it would also serve create voting barriers disproportionately for women and the elderly. LD1149 is clear voter suppression. For one voter fraud is rare and there are already layers of protection with the current comprehensive voter registration process. What we are not being protected from are lawmakers willing to undermine voter confidence with deliberate misinformation. There is currently a system for the tabulators to be tested prior to the election and are importantly not connected to the internet. The current system also employs clerks to monitor and check the results. When voter fraud is found the penalties are swift and severe as it should be. For the purposes of this testimony I did some research as to how prevalent a problem this truly is. While I found several cases where unsubstantiated claims of voter fraud were levied with no proof that were later shown to be unfounded. Of the few cases that were in fact found to be voter fraud the penalties are very steep. Non-citizen voter registration according to the [MaineMorningstar.com](https://www.maine-morningstar.com) (Emma Davis 10/17/2024 article) account for 0.0003 and 0.001% of all votes cast. I am not an economist but that seems extremely low.

Personally, I work in healthcare, I have been a pharmacist in this state for over 25 years. I work long hours with no breaks focused only on delivering the best possible healthcare to the patients I serve. Ten- and twelve-hour shifts are common in my profession. Unfortunately, the time to drive between Eddington where I live and Bangor where I work; round trip is about 45 min, I would not be able to vote in person. I do use absentee ballots. Many of us in healthcare do. I also happen to be a geriatric pharmacist and know many of my elderly patients utilize absentee voting ballots. When they attended college out of State, my children used absentee ballots. This bill is so flawed it cuts the time for early absentee voting by 2 days without a proven basis for doing this. Any barriers to access for voter's rights are designed to not let the will of the people be heard. This bill is bad lawmaking and continues the false narrative that outside groups are trying to "steal the election" with such false and unsubstantiated claims is reckless. My birth certificate does not match my

license, I was married in 1999 and I have a marriage certificate, but my license does not match my birth certificate. I know countless constituents throughout the state with the same circumstances. The idea that voter fraud is such a low instance and not a valid concern I can only conclude that in this state this bill is designed disproportionately to suppress women's votes.

Thank you again. Christine Cattan

Christine Cattán
Eddington
LD 1149

I wish to use this testimony as written for LD38, LD397 and especially LD1149