

Testimony to the Veterans and Legal Affairs Joint Standing Committee

Re: LD 1149 — An Act to Require an Individual to Present Photographic Identification for the Purpose of Voting

Dear Senator Hickman, Representative Supica, and members of the Joint Standing Committee on Veterans and Legal Affairs,

My name is Jane Ceraso, and I live in Portland, Maine. I am testifying in opposition To LD 1149. I oppose this bill because I believe it will discourage voting by students, those who have mobility issues, live in rural locations, lack access to transportation, or whom for other reasons may be unable to get to the polls.

I have worked for several years to register new Maine voters. I have seen first hand that students often *do* vote absentee, and many do not have an ID with a photo, as would be required under LD 1149. These students often rely on their student ID to vote, but LD 1149 would prohibit the use of student IDs, restricting the important votes of many young people.

There is no need for expensive new voter restrictions such as those in LD 1149. Evidence suggests that voter IDs don't prevent voter fraud. As a poll-watcher, I am aware that Maine has excellent safeguards in place to prevent fraud, cyber attacks, or other kinds of foul play. As a Mainer, I appreciate that Maine has some of the strongest voting rights in the nation. Maine ranks high because of our secure elections, same-day voter registration, no-excuse absentee ballots, and no photo ID laws required to vote.

I strongly urge the committee to oppose LD 1149.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify,

Jane Ceraso
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