

Karen Cote
Orland
LD 397

TO: Chairs Sen. Hickman and Rep. Supica and the Veterans & Legal Affairs
Committee Members

RE: LD 397 An Act to Require a Voter to Show Photographic Identification

I am testifying in opposition to LD 397 because it makes it harder for many qualified voters to vote, but especially so for college students because it does not accept college issued identification as part of the proof of a person's identity for voting. It will also require folks to send through the mail a copy of one's photographic identification, such as a Maine driver's license, for mail in absentee ballots. The cost of close to \$1 million dollars to institute and continuing costs of close to \$300,000 is a waste of taxpayer money for "free" additional required photographic identification for many groups of already qualified voters.

These partisan voter suppression bills (LD 397, LD 38, and LD 1149) are unnecessary bureaucracy, especially because Maine already has very good voting laws, election security layers, and proof of identification when we register to vote. We don't need to burden the taxpayers with more costs for yet more systems and materials for photographic IDs.

I urge the members of the Committee to vote NO on LD 397. LD 397 is a solution and a cost to the taxpayers to a problem Maine does not have.

Thanks for your consideration and NO vote,

Karen Cote
Orland