

Joan Dempsey

www.joandempsey.com

14 Dougherty Road
New Gloucester, ME 04260-5028

207-310-0365
jd@joandempsey.com

DATE: April 29, 2025

TO: The Honorable Craig Hickman, Co-Chair
The Honorable Laura Supica, Co-Chair
Members of the Joint Standing Committee on Veterans and Legal Affairs

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

Dear Sen. Hickman, Rep. Supica, and members of the Joint Standing Committee on Veterans and Legal Affairs,

I'm writing to urge the committee to oppose LD 1149, and I appreciate your consideration as you review all the testimony submitted about this bill for the May 2 public hearing.

My name is Joan Dempsey, I live in New Gloucester and Gouldsboro, and I'm extremely concerned about the possible consequences this bill would have on Maine's already-strong voting system. I hope you join me in feeling proud of Maine's high voting rates, including our first-in-the-nation status in the 2022 election, and our historically high turnout in 2024. Should LD 1149 be passed into law, those turnout numbers will suffer because of the roadblocks the bill erects for our voters, especially those who rely on absentee voting, including home-bound and disabled Mainers and rural voters.

We already have safeguards in place to prevent fraud, cyber-attacks and other issues that would attempt to disrupt our elections, and those safeguards have been working just fine. Our current same-day voter registration, no-excuse absentee ballots, and no requirement of photo IDs have already been proven to work for us and our elections are secure. There is no reason at all to tamper with a good thing.

In short, disenfranchising Maine citizens from voting is a bad idea, and LD 1149 would do just that.

I strongly encourage you to oppose LD 1149.

Thank you for taking my testimony, and thanks for all you do for us here in Maine.

Sincerely,



Joan Dempsey

