

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

Date: May 1, 2025

RE: LD 1446 – RESOLUTION, Proposing an Amendment to the Constitution of Maine to Lower the Voting Age to 16

Dear Senator Hickman, Representative Supica, and Honorable Members of the Committee:

My name is Wendy Huo. I am 16 years old, a resident of Biddeford, and a junior at the Maine School of Science and Mathematics. I am submitting written testimony in strong and unwavering support of LD 1446—a proposal that would recognize 16- and 17-year-olds not as passive recipients of policy, but as informed and engaged members of our democracy.

Over the past year, I have had the privilege of participating in civic engagement through the League of Women Voters and the Youth in Government program. These experiences have deeply shaped my understanding of how government functions—and more importantly, what it means to have a voice. I’ve followed legislation, engaged in simulations, and participated in meaningful dialogue alongside both my peers and mentors. What I’ve learned is that young people are not waiting to care. We already do.

Sixteen- and seventeen-year-olds in Maine are working in our communities, paying taxes, supporting families, volunteering, and actively contributing to civic life. We follow the news, organize events, and advocate for the issues that directly impact our futures—from climate policy to public education to mental health services. Yet despite this responsibility, we are denied one of the most fundamental rights of democracy: the right to vote.

Many are concerned if we are ready. But we are already living under the laws passed by elected officials. We are already asked to lead, to contribute, and to prepare for the future. Lowering the voting age to 16 would not only reflect the reality of our responsibilities, it would invite us to build a lifelong habit of civic participation and reaffirm that our voices matter in the present, not just in the distant future.

LD 1446 is not just a policy change. It is a recognition of principle that democracy is strongest when it includes everyone it affects, and that young people are capable of shaping the future when given the chance.

I urge you to support this resolution and affirm that the State of Maine values the insight, dedication, and potential of its young citizens. Thank you for your time and for the opportunity to share my perspective.

Sincerely,
Wendy Huo