

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

**DATE:** April 29, 2025

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

My name is Tina Marie Hilton, and I live in Alfred, Maine. I'm writing to express my strong opposition to LD 1149: *An Act to Require an Individual to Present Photographic Identification for the Purpose of Voting*.

This bill raises serious concerns not only because it introduces restrictive voter ID requirements, but because it could severely limit absentee voting, which is essential to ensuring that many Mainers are able to participate in our elections.

As someone who lives in rural Maine, I know that absentee voting isn't a convenience, for many, it's a necessity. Whether due to mobility challenges, health issues, work schedules, caregiving duties, or limited transportation, absentee voting is often the only realistic option. This bill would take that away from people who already face enough hurdles just to have their voices heard.

What's more, voter ID laws disproportionately affect seniors, people with disabilities, young voters, and low-income Mainers. The evidence is clear: these kinds of policies don't make our elections more secure; they make them less fair.

We should be working to ensure that every eligible voter in Maine has access to the ballot, not putting up new barriers. LD 1149 would undermine Maine's proud tradition of high voter turnout and trusted elections. It doesn't solve a real problem it creates one.

**I strongly encourage the committee to oppose this bill.**

Thank you for your time and opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

**Tina Marie Hilton**

Alfred, Maine