

Lara Markovitch
Bangor
LD 1149

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Bangor, Me
May 1, 2025

In opposition to LD1149: An act to require an individual to present photographic identification for the purpose of voting. Thank you Senator Craig Hickman and distinguished members of the Veterans and Legal Affairs Committee.

My name is Lara Markovitch I live in Bangor, Maine and I'm working with Maine Youth Power, a youth-lead movement focused on engaging young people across the state to fight for a better future. Today, I'm writing to ask that you oppose LD 1149: An act to require an individual to present photographic identification for the purpose of voting.

As a high school student who cares deeply about the future of Maine and feels that everyone's voice deserves to be heard, I believe that the State of Maine should be directing its efforts to increasing voter turnout. Since non-citizens voting is a near nonexistent issue, requiring photo identification and gutting absentee ballots would simply create more barriers for Mainers that aren't able to simply stand in line for hours at the polls on a week night to vote. It is an act that would fundamentally make it more difficult for seniors, working Mainers, young people, and folks with disabilities to vote. By denying access to absentee ballots, a government run only by those who don't rely on the resources which make voting more accessible is created. As a young Mainer, I have hoped for a better future for the state by participating in government, but the rest of my generation and many more across Maine need those resources that make voting more accessible in order for their voices to be heard. Once again I ask that you oppose LD1149. Thank you for your time.