

Ben Marsden
Peaks Island
LD 1149

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

Date: 5/1/2025

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

Dear Senator Hickman, Representative Supica, and members of the joint standing
committee on Veterans and Legal Affairs,

My name is Ben Marsden, I live at 4 Veteran Street, Peaks Island (Portland). I am
testifying in opposition of LD1149.

I oppose this bill because it subverts the fundamental principle that all legitimate
voters are able to cast their vote in a truly representative government election process.

Extended comments:

A truly representative government requires that every person who is legally
permitted to cast a vote be given a viable and reasonable way for their vote to be cast.

Any effort to subvert or obstruct their ability to vote will invariably result in
marginalizing certain classes or blocks of otherwise legitimate members of our
society. This in turn will allow some politicians to ignore those marginalized when
considering new policies and laws.

While voter fraud is a true and legitimate concern, the paramount priority must be to
allow all voters to participate, and then, to find and eliminate any fraudulent activity if
and where it may have occurred.

This bill reverses the priority of the preceding point, elevating the effort to suppress
potential fraud by denying some legitimate voters of their ability to cast their vote.

Thank you for your time, and for the opportunity to testify.

Kind regards,

-- Ben Marsden