

Derek Pierce
Portland
LD 1149

Dear Senator Hickman, Representative Supica, and members of the Joint Standing Committee on Veterans and Legal Affairs,

I am testifying in opposition of LD 1149. This seems to be a bill in search of a problem. The research is clear. Voter fraud is extremely rare, especially in Maine. Our work should be centered on getting more eligible voters to the polls, not on creating needless obstacles for eligible voters. I oppose this bill because these restrictions can and will harm every type of voter, with senior and rural voters experiencing the worst of the disenfranchisement. It will be costly, too. Taxpayers will be on the hook to pay for a new system.

Additionally, evidence suggests that voter IDs don't prevent voter fraud. Maine has safeguards in place to prevent fraud, cyber attacks, and other kinds of foul play that would attempt to subvert our elections.

This proposal seems to be imported to Maine from an out-of-state playbook (see the latest Ohio voter suppression law). Additionally, thousands of dollars are being raised from out-of-state donors in order to push this on Maine voters.

Maine has strong voting rights. We are a leader in the nation. Our small, rural, working-class state has one of the highest voter turnout rates in the country. That's something to be proud of. We rank this high because of our secure elections, same-day voter registration, no-excuse absentee ballots, and no photo ID laws required to vote.. I urge the committee to oppose this bill. Thank you for your time and consideration.