

Kerry Read
Paris
LD 1149

Senator Craig Hickman, Representative Laura Supica, and Members of the Joint Standing Committee on Veterans and Legal Affairs,

My name is Kerry Read and I live in Paris. I am testifying in opposition to LD 1149 as a concerned citizen and member of the Maine Unitarian Universalist State Advocacy Network. One of the guiding principles of Unitarian Universalism is our commitment to the democratic process. The right and responsibility of every citizen to vote is fundamental to preserving our democracy.

LD1149 places unnecessary requirements and restrictions on the voting process.

“Why?” The implication is that our elections are not safe, yet we know that they are.

The suggestion is that these restrictions will somehow make our elections safer. I ask you, “How?” There is no evidence of a problem that needs to be fixed. There is no evidence that making it harder for some of us to vote will make our elections safer.

The whole premise of this bill is built on perpetuating the false narrative of fraudulent voting activities. Requiring photo ids, restricting ballot drop boxes and making armed forces personnel and many of our elder citizens jump through constant hurdles to obtain absentee ballots will only serve to limit access to voting. Every citizen has the right to vote. A healthy democracy requires full participation. I ask this committee to vote “ought not to pass” on LD 1149 and turn your attention to caring for our democratic process by encouraging every citizen to vote.