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LD 397

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May 2, 2025

Joint Standing Committee on Veterans and Legal Affairs

The Honorable Craig Hickman

The Honorable Laura Supica

Members of the Joint Standing Committee on Veterans and Legal Affairs

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

Esteemed legislators:

My name is George Schelling. I live in Orland. I am writing in opposition to LD 1149.

At the outset, I am sure we can all agree that bills should not be passed unless a careful analysis finds the benefits outweigh the costs.

There is virtually no benefit. Maine has had virtually no instances of voter fraud. Our town clerks know their jobs, know the population and are vigilant about scrupulous enforcement of voting laws.

The costs are enormous. The bill's provisions for restricting or eliminating absentee voting means many of my neighbors, who are citizens and have voted for years, will be disenfranchised. I find this unthinkable and profoundly undemocratic.

We also know that many Mainers do not have photo ID's. The process for them to create appropriate identifying documentation would be so cumbersome that many would not vote.

The extra time and effort to enforce the provisions of LD 1140 would be an enormous burden on citizens, municipal election clerks and the State of Maine.

Please kill this bill or pass it on to the public for a referendum vote, as was contemplated and represented by its backers.

Respectfully,  
George C. Schelling