



# Professional Fire Fighters of Maine

*Affiliated with the International Association of Fire Fighters*

**Testimony of Michael Scott, President**

**Friday, May 2, 2025**

## **LD 1149 – “An Act to Require an Individual to Present Photographic Identification for the Purpose of Voting”**

Senator Hickman, Representative Supica and other esteemed members of the Veterans and Legal Affairs Committee, my name is Michael Scott. I’m here to testify in opposition to LD 1149 as the President of the Professional Fire Fighters of Maine, representing over 1,200 First Responders and their families across the State of Maine. Thank you for this important opportunity to speak on behalf of the brave men and women who serve as first responders.

As a firefighter, my work schedule is unpredictable and demanding. We often work 24-hour shifts, respond to emergencies at all hours, and sometimes find ourselves on duty during elections. The nature of this job means I and many of my colleagues often can’t predict whether we’ll be able to physically get to the polls. Under the current system, I can request an absentee ballot and vote by mail, ensuring my voice is heard without compromising my responsibilities.

Absentee voting provides a reliable, secure way for me to fulfill my civic duty without compromising public safety or leaving my post unmanned. Restricting absentee voting by tightening deadlines, or reducing ballot drop-off options would force firefighters like me to choose between our jobs and our right to vote. That’s not a choice anyone should have to make.

Restricting absentee voting disproportionately affects individuals with demanding schedules, such as first responders, healthcare workers, and others who serve the public. It creates unnecessary obstacles for those who are often unable to vote in person due to their professional commitments.

We risk our lives to protect our communities. The least we should be afforded is a fair and accessible way to participate in the democracy we serve. Absentee voting isn’t a loophole—it’s a safeguard for people with demanding and unpredictable schedules. Restricting it would silence the voices of those who keep our neighborhoods safe.

I urge you to consider the impact of LD 1149 on public servants like myself and the broader community. Voting is a fundamental right, and we should strive to make it more accessible, not less. I respectfully ask you to oppose LD 1149 and work towards solutions that enhance voter participation without imposing undue burdens. Let’s keep our elections secure, accessible, and fair—for every voter, including the ones who might be on the front lines while the polls are open.

Thank you for your time and I would be pleased to address any questions you may have.

*Michael Scott*