

George Simonson
Harpwell
LD 1149

Members of the Joint Standing Committee on Veterans and Legal Affairs

DATE: May 2, 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 George Simonson, and I live in Harpswell, Maine. I'm testifying to oppose LD 1149 — because it pretends to be an innocent voter ID measure “protecting us from fraud.”

But in reality, the bill is a Trojan horse. There is no fraud to speak of. Repeated studies have shown this. The bill's real intention is clear, namely to make voting harder:

- The bill bans the use of student IDs, tribal IDs, and several other currently accepted forms of ID.
- It bans ongoing absentee voting (in which a voter can sign up to receive an absentee ballot automatically for each election cycle).
- It limits the use and number of absentee ballot drop-boxes to one per town.
- It bans requesting an absentee ballot over the phone.
- It bans authorized third parties from delivering absentee ballots.

All of these are services that young people, Indigenous people, women, elderly people, disabled people, veterans, newly naturalized citizens, and rural Mainers rely on to vote. I rely on absentee voting myself, when I travel.

It's no wonder LD 1149 is being publicly opposed not just by voters like me, but by the American Civil Liberties Union of Maine, the League of Women Voters of Maine — which calls the bill “pure voter suppression” (saying it would be one of the most restrictive voter ID laws in the country) — AARP of Maine, the Maine Attorney General's office, and the Secretary of State.

Maine already has a strong, secure voting system, with one of the highest turnout rates in the nation. I ask the Committee to please vote to oppose this bill today. Thanks for your time and the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

— George Simonson