

Sally Tukey
Bath
LD 1149

From: Sally Tukey
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To: Michelle Hebert, Clerk
Members of the Veterans and Legal Affairs Committee

I am testifying against the SAVE Act. This referendum is being promoted as a photo ID bill, but it is really a voter suppression bill. It is a bad, biased solution to a nonexistent problem.

The SAVE Act is unnecessary and harmful. It creates problems rather than solves them. Here's why.

- Voter fraud is exceedingly rare.
- Our current system is safe and secure. We are a model for other states.
- This is a national bill promoted by outside actors. I believe it does not truly represent the views of the people of Maine. Similar bills in other states have failed to find fraud and have caused problems. A bill in Kansas disenfranchised 12 percent of voters and was eventually ruled unconstitutional.
- This bill will be expensive. It will cost the state over \$1,000,000 the first year and over \$360,000 per year for the next two years.
- Because voters will need to have a passport or a birth certificate, the SAVE Act will disenfranchise many Maine voters, especially women who have taken their husband's name and will not be able to use their birth certificates, senior citizens, young voters, lower income voters, and rural voters. That sounds like a lot of Maine voters to me. I am asking legislators to think twice before you eliminate your own voters.
- Voters who succeed in overcoming the photo ID hurdles are then met with significant challenges to their ability to actually get to the polls and vote. Again, seniors, young people, rural voters, and the disabled are the most affected. One of the best features of Maine's elections is our convenient absentee ballot and drop box system. Both will be severely limited under the new SAVE Act. Since fraud has not been found in Maine elections, these limitations are unnecessary as well as devastating. Do legislators truly believe that many of their friends, neighbors, and constituents are voting fraudulently? I doubt it.

Maine is known for its safe, secure, and efficient election system. We routinely have one of the highest voter turnout rates in the nation. Let's keep it that way!