

TO: The Honorable Craig Hickman
The Honorable Laura Supica, Co-Chairs
Members of the Joint Standing Committee on Veterans and Legal Affairs

DATE: May 2, 2025

RE: LD397 – An Act to Require a Voter to Show Photographic Identification.

Dear Senator Hickman, Representative Supica, and members of the Joint Standing Committee on Veterans' and Legal Affairs;

My name is Dawn Walls. I come from the town of Unity. I am testifying today in opposition to LD397. I oppose this bill for the following reasons:

There are multiple bills presently being proposed, here and across the country, that would require a photo ID to vote. They vary in their complexity and offer different layers of restrictions, but with the same consequences. I believe it is necessary to oppose each and every one of them. LD397 adds to all the problems engendered in LD38 the requirement of photo ID to absentee voting. Absentee voting is largely used by people who are already dealing with barriers to voting. This bill would only add another burden. All of my following arguments below still apply in addition to the burden placed on absentee voters.

We already have sufficient rules governing who can or cannot vote. The idea that illegal aliens are voting, or that any other fraud is being committed on a scale that would affect election outcomes has already been investigated and debunked. Voter ID laws wouldn't prevent the kind of fraud we are being asked to believe this kind of legislation is targeting anyway. What seems very clear to me is that these proposals are not about voting integrity at all. It is about eroding the ability of the American people to exercise their voting power. It is about adding friction to the process. It also institutes yet another invasive form of data collection that is all too easy to weaponize.

I would like to point out that the cost associated with these bills to institute a new system, would fall on tax payers, with the final result being that we will once again pay more for something of lesser quality – paying for our own oppression in effect. Our precious time and taxpayer money could be much better used for actually protecting us from such oppressive legislation and corrupt use of power by the current administration.

I have always been proud of the fact that we have a great system for voting in Maine. I believe it is the right thing to make voting easier, not harder, or scary, or punitive. Voting is not only a basic right in our country, a right from which other rights can flow, it is also our profound responsibility as citizens of a democracy. I oppose and resent any infringement on our right to vote. I believe these proposed bills are not only unnecessary and disingenuous, but they are also dangerous legislation.

For these, and many other reasons, I ask for the committee to vote Ought Not To Pass on LD397. I thank the committee for your time and the opportunity to testify.

