



Maine Women's Lobby

THE VOICE OF MAINE WOMEN

MEDIA STATEMENT

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House Votes to Revoke Voting Rights

Statement of Sarah Standiford, Executive Director
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“Today the Maine House of Representatives voted to turn back the clock - and undercut Maine's vibrant democratic tradition – by voting to eliminate Election Day Registration.

“Voting is fundamental to full civic participation. That's why the Maine Women's Lobby is deeply concerned about L.D. 1376. This bill would establish unnecessary and inappropriate barriers in front of prospective voters, especially women voters. It will turn back the clock on our democracy. It will turn back the clock on voting rights.

“Imagine a military service member who completes her service shortly before an election and returns home to Maine, not able to vote because she was not able to get to the registrar's office in town before the deadline. Imagine a busy single mom, recently moved to a new town, unable to find care for her children so she can get to the town office to register. Their civic responsibility - their right to vote - is deferred. These are the real life consequences of making it harder to register and vote.

“This move will disenfranchise the thousands of Maine citizens who rely on Election Day Voter Registration. And to what end? There has been only two cases of voter fraud in thirty years.

“Election Day Registration is part of Maine's vibrant democratic tradition. This repeal of voting rights must not stand in the Senate.

“Maine's voting system works, and it works well. Maine lawmakers should be working on getting our economy moving again, NOT muddying up Maine's system of elections.”

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