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LETTER

Message to Lynch

Susan Erickson, Concord

For the Monitor

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To Gov. John Lynch: We urge you to veto Senate Bill 129, which would require all voters to present government-issued photo identification in order to exercise their constitutional right to vote.

Approximately half of New Hampshire's registered voters are independent, and we place a high value on access to the voting booth. Restrictions that get in the way of voter participation undermine the integrity of our government.

SB 129 will create barriers to voting for the elderly, young people, the disabled, members of minority groups, the poor, and non-drivers. It will reduce participation in order to address one kind of "voter fraud," impersonation. This problem has not been shown to exist in New Hampshire.

As we move into a primary season when the eyes of the nation will be on New Hampshire's elections, we should encourage participation in our elections, not place barriers in the way of our state's voters.

SUSAN ERICKSON

Concord

(This letter was also signed by William Nichols of Grantham and Pat Spaulding of Rye.)

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