

**Testimony of the Maine Immigrants' Rights Coalition (MIRC)
In Opposition to LD 1329**

An Act To Require Driver's Licenses and Nondriver Identification Cards To Indicate
Citizenship or Immigration Status

Public Hearing: April 30, 2025, 1:00 PM

Senator Nangel, Representative Crafts, and esteemed members of the Joint Standing
Committee on Transportation:

My name is Ruben Torres, and I serve as the Advocacy, Communications, and Policy
Manager for the Maine Immigrants' Rights Coalition (MIRC). On behalf of our over 100
member organizations statewide, I am submitting this testimony in **opposition to LD 1329**,
An Act To Require Driver's Licenses and Nondriver Identification Cards To Indicate
Citizenship or Immigration Status.

Under existing statute, "The Secretary of State may not issue a license to an applicant unless
the applicant presents... valid documentary evidence of legal presence in the United States."
However, this bill proposes that driver's licenses and non-driver IDs should include a label
indicating whether an individual is a U.S. citizen, a noncitizen, or an asylum seeker.

LD 1329 would add no new security benefit. Rather, it exposes individuals who have lawful
presence under federal law to unnecessary scrutiny and potential harm by forcing a label on
their license that may be misunderstood or misused.

By forcing people to carry a state-issued ID that marks them as a "noncitizen" or "asylum
seeker," this legislation places a government stamp on what is, in effect, a profiling
mechanism. We have deep concern about the downstream use of these licenses by employers,
landlords, law enforcement, banks, or even school officials—none of whom are trained in
immigration law, but all of whom might draw prejudicial or incorrect conclusions based on
that label.

Immigration categories like "asylum seeker" are not fixed legal statuses—they often
represent a stage in a legal process that can take years. There is a raised risk of mislabeling,
either due to misunderstanding, outdated information, or flawed documentation. Once
misidentified, individuals have no clear process for appeal or correction, raising serious due
process concerns.

Our identification system should not be weaponized to mark or stigmatize. LD 1329 offers no
public safety and instead subjects individuals to targeted discrimination. For these reasons,
we urge the Committee to vote **Ought Not to Pass** on LD 1329. Thank you for your time and
thoughtful consideration.

Respectfully,

Ruben Torres
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