



COALITION ON RACIAL EQUITY

4/1/25

RE: LD 1656

Dear Senator Carney, Representative Kuhn, and Honorable Members of the Judiciary Committee,

The Coalition on Racial Equity (CORE) would like to add our voices to the many that have urged you to vote ought not to pass on LD 1656.

The Coalition on Racial Equity (CORE) actively pursues racial equity and justice by dismantling structural inequities and disparities. We aspire to a world where influential decision-makers actively collaborate with affected people and communities, fostering a collective effort to dismantle oppressive laws, policies, and practices for a more equitable and just society.

LD 1656 prohibits local government entities from restricting cooperation with federal agencies, blurring the lines between local, state and federal responsibilities. CORE would encourage the committee to deeply explore the history of racism in policing and the harmful rhetoric used by the current federal administration.

LD 1656 seeks to silence a growing and vocal opposition to how the current federal administration is instructing federal law enforcement to work within our communities. Local municipalities have many reasons why they may choose to place restrictions on the use of their local law enforcement personnel, and they should be allowed to have these discussions free from federal interference, as they set local priorities. Just recently citizens of Windham spoke out against their local law enforcement's consideration of entering into a 287(g) memorandum of understanding citing concerns for litigation against the town and the cost to local tax payers for this increased civil liability. The police chief opted not to move forward after hearing from tax payers. The state legislature should not shut down these conversations and silence local voices who dissent.

LD 1656 forces a municipality to absorb additional expenses for local law enforcement agencies, restricts their ability to determine local priorities and increases their risk of litigation.

We urge you to vote ought not to pass on LD 1656. Reject this attempt to silence dissent.

CORE members include:

ACLU Maine
Maine AFL-CIO
Defend Our Health
Democracy Maine
Maine Equal Justice
Maine Organic Farmers and
Gardeners Association
Maine People's Alliance

Maine Center for Economic
Policy
Maine Women's Lobby
Planned Parenthood of
Northern New England
NAACP
Maine Youth for Climate
Justice
Maine Conservation Voters

Maine Youth Power

