

Kerry Read  
South Paris  
LD 1656

Senator Carney, Representative Kuhn and distinguished members of the Committee on Judiciary.

My name is Kerry Read and I live in the town of South Paris. I am testifying in opposition to LD 1656,, both as a concerned citizen and as a member of the Unitarian Universalist Church.

My faith tradition, like many others, teaches that we are all inherently worthy of being treated with dignity and respect. Our value does not change with our immigration status.

I am concerned about my neighbors and friends that might not look or speak like the majority of people in the area but are good, kind, hard working, law abiding members of our community. When I see reports of innocent people, even children, being stolen from their families, friends and communities without judicial warrants and without access to legal representation or due process of the law, I join every justice seeking American in protesting this abuse of power and propagation of fear tactics.

We all deserve to live free from fear of intimidation or threat of unconstitutional arrests and “disappearing” of our loved ones.

I have every confidence that my local police department is committed to enforcing the law AND respecting the rights of our community members.

I do not want them taking on the role of ICE agents. They are being paid to serve and protect. I am thankful for their service and dedication to that responsibility.

For the sake of our freedom to live free from fear and in safe and law abiding communities; for the inherit worth and dignity of all Mainers, I ask you to vote “Ought Not to Pass on LD 1656