

Jane Alper
Topsham
LD 1259

I urge the committee to support this bill to prevent local law enforcement from cooperating with ICE in detaining and incarcerating migrants living in their communities. The

I recently relocated to Maine from Vermont where I worked with a group assisting migrants, mainly asylum seekers, in their efforts to establish themselves as productive members of our community. In an area of the state with a shortage of qualified workers, they provided were valued members of the community. They were intelligent, courageous, and likeable people.

An association of local police with ICE would be unfortunate for many reasons. It would create fear and distrust and deter migrants from working with the police on criminal matters. It would decrease the ability of our already understaffed police forces to deal with crime. And it would burden a group of hard working community members who have been living peacefully and productively among us.