

Laura Casey
Farmington
LD 1259

To my District 75 (Farmington) Representatives;

On May 19th, you will hear Legislative Bill 1259 — An Act to Enhance Public Safety in Maine by Defining the Relationship Between Local and Federal Law Enforcement — an “act” that will be horrible for born-and-raised Mainers, Maine immigrants, Maine residents, “snowbirds” of Maine as well as guests/tourists to our state for various reasons. Many of these reasons came to fruition (and continue to come to fruition) as we introduced post-911 bills into law and forged 287(g) memorandums with LEAs — changing the dynamics of local law enforcement forever.

Maine immigrants contribute to our state in ways that even Mainers do not contribute. In 2023, our immigration population was 54,300 — a mere 4% of our total population with HALF being naturalized with only 0.5% (approximately 5000 immigrants) in Maine remaining undocumented.

In addition to our immigrant populations’ naturalization efforts, 35% of our immigrants hold a college education — FIVE PERCENT MORE than natural born Mainers. This adds to their contributions to the state — which includes \$2.2 BILLION dollars in income, \$1.6 billion in spending power and \$625.8 MILLION collectively paid in taxes.

Moreover, Maine immigrants fill vital roles that native Mainers don’t often want — agriculture (Blueberry fields in particular), night shifts, lower-waged jobs and dangerous jobs. *This is statistically reported again and again by the CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE.

So, WHY are we attempting to destroy our economy and increase distrust in the community by signing 287(g) agreements with ICE?

287(g) agreements are shown (time and again) to:

Increase distrust between community and local law enforcement

Expend local and state budgets since federal funds are not added to the budget to equip LEAs with vital resources.

Increase litigation for human right violations, search-and-seizure violations, 4th Amendment violations and Habeas Corpus violations — adding *billions* in litigation annually across the U.S.

Harm law enforcement personnel due to lack of training.

These are facts; but, more importantly — they show that they are unwarranted and unnecessary “acts,” especially when considering their harm versus benefit relationship — from monetary to resources to community shutting their doors to help their local sheriff.

So as a retired U.S. Naval officer with LE training to include force protection (and anti-terrorism) of battle groups and fleets — do not vote in favor of diminishing even more of our vital community resources.

Sincerely
Laura Casey