

Good Afternoon,

Senator Carney, Representative Kuhn and honorable members of the Judiciary Committee. My name is Camden Ador, I live in Bangor, and I am writing to testify in favor of LD 1259.

I am a theologian and graduate of Vanderbilt Divinity School. We, at VDS, call ourselves scholars, prophets, and activists because our faith compels us to stand in solidarity with the marginalized and oppressed. I cannot ignore the call to love my neighbor, especially those who are most vulnerable. This isn't just a political issue; it is a moral imperative rooted deeply in the teachings of justice, compassion, and human dignity. Liberation theology teaches us that to follow the path of Christ is to resist oppressive powers that seek to dehumanize and marginalize others. Local law enforcement's collaboration with ICE is an embodiment of such oppression, perpetuating fear, family separation, and racial injustice. We must stand against systems that harm the poor and the outsider, and advocate for a society that reflects love and justice for all. This is not merely a matter of faith; it is a matter of morality, a matter of defending the most vulnerable in our society against systems of control that violate their dignity and humanity.

Prior to studying theology I served 6 years in the military. In my time in the Navy I worked alongside many service members who were not yet American citizens but chose active duty as a path to citizenship. My shipmates served honorably and steadfastly. Immigrants have always been the backbone of this country and continue to contribute significantly to Maine's economy. But truthfully, how honorably they served or if they were pulled over at a routine traffic stop like 27-year-old asylum seeker Richard Sanipatin shouldn't matter. The constitution guarantees due process and equal protections apply to everyone in the United States, regardless of immigration status. This is not what we see happening across the United States as local law enforcement continues to partner with ICE agents to kidnap and deport people without due process.

We as a state must make it illegal to enter into a 287(g) agreement with ICE. not only because it conflicts with the Constitution of the United States, but also because it should conflict with the moral fiber of your souls to terrorize individuals and families based on where they were born.

I urge you to vote in favor of LD 1259. Thank you for your time, I'm happy to answer any questions that you have.

Be Well,
Camden Ador

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Bangor
LD 1259

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