

Stephen Sawyer
KENNEBUNK
LD 1971

Testimony in Support of LD 1971

An Act to Protect Workers in This State by Clarifying the Relationship of State and Local Law Enforcement Agencies with Federal Immigration Authorities

Sponsor: Representative Dhalac

Public Hearing: Judiciary Committee 19th, May 2025 1:00 PM

Senator Carney, Representative Kuhn, and esteemed members of the Judiciary Committee:

My name is Stephen Sawyer, and I am a resident of Kennebunk. I wish to offer testimony today in support of LD 1971, An Act to An Act to Protect Workers in This State by Clarifying the Relationship of State and Local Law Enforcement Agencies with Federal Immigration Authorities

Kennebunk is a vibrant coastal community of roughly 11,000 year-round residents. It consistently rates as one of the safest towns in Maine based on its low crime rate, which is testimony to the quality efforts of our public safety staff. This fact is in spite of our summer population increasing by about 50% with the influx of seasonal residents, visitors, and tourists.

To satisfy this external service demand, we enjoy a robust hospitality industry comprised of many fine hotels and restaurants, a number of which rely on immigrant workers with temporary work visas.

Given that the state of Maine is currently being targeted by the Trump administration on a number of fronts, I worry that expanding ICE's presence in our community through our local police force would be impactful to not only these foreign workers, but our businesses that rely on them, and our residents who would receive less focus because of the distraction resulting from any ICE responsibilities.

As you can imagine, our public safety resources are currently strained during the peak tourist season, but the data shows that they are still managing to do an excellent job of keeping our community safe. My concern is that assisting ICE fulfill its mission would negatively impact what is already a difficult task.

Therefore, I urge you to vote Ought to Pass on LD 1971. Let's keep the lines of responsibility clear and not have a federal mission comprise our local public safety operations.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Stephen Sawyer