

Paul Savoy
Sullivan
LD 1259

Good afternoon, Senator Carney, Representative Kuhn and honorable members of the Judiciary Committee. My name is Capt. Paul M.T. Savoy. I live in Sullivan, and I am writing to testify in favor of LD 1259.

We citizens of Maine have placed a sacred trust on our law enforcement officers. It's right there in the name- law enforcement. They are obligated to protect us, to serve us, and to enforce the law. That is their entire mandate. Our police exist to protect us from criminals. That is what we pay them for. That is the sacred duty which we have entrusted to them. For which we arm them. We have given them power over us, and trust them to go armed among us. In exchange for that trust, we demand a high standard of behavior. We hold them to it.

And so we must demand that our police refuse contact with ICE. ICE is NOT law enforcement. Very much the opposite: ICE is a renegade agency of domestic terror, openly flouting law at every level, and abusing people in the cold light of day. They're kidnappers. They snag people off the street with zero due process, and whisk them away to foreign torture prisons; even when ICE spokesmen admit their victims's total innocence, as in the case of Kilmar Garcia and many others. They're murders. Todd Lyons, ICE's acting director, confessed before congress last week that they've had 9 people die in custody in the last 100 days alone. They openly arrest people- both citizens and foreigners- for speaking out against the rapist and felon who sits in the white house, depriving us of our 1st amendment rights. They recently arrested a mayor. They recently arrested a judge. They arrested a 5 year old girl with cancer, depriving her of medical care. On and on and on. They conduct their "raids" with their faces masked, and their badges hidden. They are the most reprehensible thugs in our nation, boldly acting as a latter-day gestapo, who's goals are terror and chaos and brutality. I cannot say this emphatically enough- ICE is NOT Law enforcement. They continue to openly commit crimes against us. They have violated not just our trust, but that of the real members of law enforcement. They are exactly the kind of vicious, disgusting thugs we hired our police to protect us from. They have no place in Maine.

We cannot allow this taint to infect our officers here in Maine. How will we trust our officers if they work with ICE? How can they claim to actually stand by our laws while partaking in such lawlessness? While aiding and abetting the gestapo? Our police have always claimed to be leaders of our communities. To stand for integrity. To stand for law and order. If they work with ICE, all of that is meaningless, and we will have nobody to protect us.

We must give our law enforcement a shield. We must give them the shelter of telling ICE that Maine law forbids their complicity. We cannot allow any reality in which a minor traffic stop in Maine could lead to incarceration in a foreign death camp. I remind you all that the next ones abducted by ICE could very well be *your* family members. Or mine. I demand that we put a stop to that. I demand that our police not take part in that.

In closing, 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"