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LD 1259

Thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony on Legislative Document No. 1259, An Act to Enhance Public Safety in Maine by Defining the Relationship between Local and Federal Law Enforcement. I support this LD on reasons related to fiscal responsibility and constitutional protections. First, local law enforcement agencies and towns and cities should not be allowed to encumber tax payers with the costs of federal immigration enforcement. Second, the Trump administration has already committed human rights violations and violations against the rights of citizens in its deportations of citizens and residents without due process. The administration announced last week that it is looking into suspending habeas corpus. We cannot allow Maine law enforcement employees to be under a contractual obligation to violate the human rights of residents and citizens, to violate the Maine State Constitution or other of our laws or the Constitution of the United States. According to the ACLU - Franklin County has held at least 66 people in custody with no criminal charges and no clear authority to detain them other than cooperation with federal authorities. Cities and towns should be prohibited from making any arrangement which changes the law enforcement obligations of employees to include the enforcement of federal immigration policies, which could open the cities and towns up to civil and criminal liability