

Cynthia Dubea
Wells
LD 1259

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5/17/25

Re: LD1259

Dear Senator Carney, Representative Kuhn, and Honorable Members of the Judiciary Committee:

My name is Cynthia Dubea. I am a resident of Wells. And I am writing to you today to express my full support of LD 1259.

To say that I am deeply concerned about the decision by the Wells Police Department to enter into an agreement with U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) would be an understatement. The decision was made without any oversight from our elected officials or any opportunities for public comment. And it is having a such a divisive impact on our town - a town that has taken pride in claiming to be the friendliest town in Maine.

Ostensibly, this agreement, as presented to us by our chief of police, is focused solely on allowing ICE to delegate some of its federal immigration enforcement authority to officers of our Wells Police Department who complete a 40-hour ICE training program. Ostensibly.

Given the actions of ICE in recent months, many of us in Wells firmly believe we have good reason to distrust that ICE's stated intent for this agreement is aligned with their ultimate reason for wanting to become a presence in our community. Every day we hear about ICE agents who remove individuals from communities across our country and deport them without the due process to which they are entitled under the law. We see videos of people being picked up off the street, from college campuses, and elsewhere. Americans of all political persuasions are horrified by and angry about this anti-American behavior on the part of this government agency. And we should be.

LD 1259 will protect not only individuals in Wells, but those in every other town in our state. I urge you to support passage of this bill.