

Melissa McLaughlin  
Brooks  
LD 1971

Good afternoon, Senator Carney, Representative Kuhn and other members of the Judiciary Committee. My name is Melissa McLaughlin, I live in Brooks, ME, and I am here to testify in favor of LD 1971.

Immigrants are the backbone of our economy, and they are our friends, neighbors, and community members. ICE has become a rogue agency that is tearing families apart, deporting legal immigrants, forgoing due process, and reigning terror on civilians.

Immigration is a federal issue, and local and state police should have no say in how immigration is carried out. Police are meant to protect EVERYONE, no matter their color, origin, or language. Keeping communities safe means everyone should be safe around police, not just documented immigrants and citizens.

My community recently saw an atrocious case in which a traffic stop turned into state sponsored terrorism because the local police called ICE. There was no violence, no reason to ask about immigration beyond color of skin and language. No families deserve to live in fear, thinking that at any moment a loving mother, father, or sibling could suddenly have their lives irrevocably changed like that.

While I also support LD 1259, I am especially in support of this larger bill since it would stop proactive incidents of police overreach like the example above.

I urge you to vote in favor of LD 1971. Thank you for your time, I'm happy to answer any questions that you have.

In peace,  
Melissa McLaughlin<sup>[11]</sup><sub>SEP</sub> Brooks, ME