

Mark Barnett  
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LD 1259

Distinguished members of the Committee on the Judiciary,

I am writing in favor of passing both LD 1259 and LD 1971. We find ourselves in a truly evil time in our country's history. The Administration is using a completely fabricated 'immigration scare' tactic in order to distract from its destruction of our civil service infrastructure, its plundering of public resources and data, and its plundering of the American taxpayer for the benefit of the richest people in the world. These attacks lean into racist tropes and propaganda that have persisted in America since its inception. Furthermore, it is using its 'bully pulpit' to pressure states and municipalities to either look the other way or actively collude in attacking people who are legally here in the United States under the pretense of looking for 'illegals'. This cannot be tolerated here in Maine. To my horror, various departments are already doing so--this grave injustice must end at our state line.

What is especially terrifying about this moment is the attempt to undermine both due process and habeas corpus, two fundamental aspects of the American legal system that protect us from tyranny exactly like this and ensure that every person within this country has at the very least the right to defend themselves in court. What we are seeing now taking place in Maine is the exact opposite--widespread dragnet operations with no basis in rationale for deportation simply to pad the numbers to the Administration can pretend it is 'protecting' the American people from 'undesirables'. This assault on immigrants is simply a pretext to suspend due process and habeas corpus so that no American can ever feel safe or secure in this country. We've already witnessed the Administration say that this is its explicit goal.

Whether you support the current actions being taken against immigrants to this country or not, what is coming next will put you, your family, your friends, and any American who dares share different views from the white nationalist dictatorship that is attempting a coup on the Federal government in grave, grave danger. That any law enforcement officer in the state of Maine would collude in such behavior is an appalling indication of support for this white nationalist dictatorship in the making. They, like you our public officials, are servants of the people of Maine and therefore as our elected officials it is incumbent upon you to take action to prevent furthering this coup within our state borders. I urge you with the greatest force I can muster to pass both of these bills, LD 1259 and LD 1971, to ensure that Maine does not further the evil goals of this tyranny and this destruction of our legal system happening in plain sight. Protect families, protect innocent human beings, and protect Mainers from these terrible abuses and help stop the plan to destroy the American legal system. I sincerely thank you for your time and effort on this most critical of issues before the Legislature.

Mark Barnett