

Sara Hessler
Ellsworth
LD 1259

Dear Senator Carney, Representative Kuhn, and honorable members of the Judiciary Committee:

My name is Sara Hessler and I am from Ellsworth where I have lived, worked, and raised a family over the past 43 years. I am offering my written testimony in support of LD 1259 in hopes that my voice and all the others who are testifying in support of this law will be heard and effect passage of LD 1259.

Maine Law Enforcement agencies have enough on their plates dealing with myriad issues affecting our state and they should not have to spend resources—financial and human- in support of ICE. That is not their job nor have most law enforcement professionals been trained in the intricacies of immigration law. I believe that most members of Maine's law enforcement agencies are decent, compassionate, and honorable people but, from what I have read in legitimate news outlets, I cannot say the same for those who are ICE agents and I do not want their despicable, gestapo-like and often illegal tactics to tarnish and infect the reputations of our agencies.

Another reason for supporting the passage of LD 1259 is to promote a sense of welcome and safety for immigrants who are trying to just live their lives, engage in their communities, and raise their families. We are an aging state in need of workers and younger families in our towns and cities. We desperately need more people in healthcare, retail, restaurants, manufacturing, and the tourism industry so why not make Maine an inviting, welcoming place for immigrants to find work and raise families? Rather than become accomplices of ICE, let's help those who are here, trying to belong, working, getting educated, paying taxes, etc. to feel safe and cared for. Let's live into the Maine mottos of "Dirigo" and "Maine—the way life should be."

Thank you for hearing me and I strongly urge you to vote in favor of LD 1259.

Sara Hessler
Ellsworth