

Mary Dunn
Whitefield
LD 1971

Dear Members of the Judiciary Committee,
Please support ...

LD 1259 - An Act to Enhance Public Safety in Maine by Defining the Relationship
Between Local and Federal Law Enforcement

AND...

LD 1971 - An Act to Protect Workers in This State by Clarifying the Relationship of
State and Local Law Enforcement Agencies with Federal Immigration Authorities.

Beneath the surface of these bills is a population who have chosen Maine for their
home. You may wonder why. As a popular poem reminds us,

“No one leaves home unless home is the mouth of a shark.”

Ask yourself, “What would it take to force you to grab your kids and leave your
home?” What would that “shark” look like? Violent gangs recruiting you or your
children? Ongoing civil war? Yearly and seasonal climate catastrophes wiping out
your home and eroding the possibility to grow food for your family? Famine?

Please hold onto that question and thought as you deliberate this important issue.

Both LD 1259 and LD 1971 have huge lifesaving impacts.

We can discuss the moral and financial reasonings behind not giving local law
enforcement authority to carry out federal immigration enforcement but I would like
you to also understand that people have left their homes, their families, their
everything because something pushed them to. And after long and difficult journeys,
you and I cannot begin to imagine, miraculously here they are. How we respond to
this says a lot more about us than those who will be harmed by what is occurring
across our state today.

Right now the increase in “arrests” in Maine are causing incredible fear and harm.

Not just to our immigrant neighbors, but to their neighbors who care about them.

Living in such chaos and fear does not help strengthen communities. It does the
opposite by ripping them apart.

Please do the right thing and support both LD 1259 - An Act to Enhance Public
Safety in Maine by Defining the Relationship Between Local and Federal Law
Enforcement and

LD 1971 - An Act to Protect Workers in This State by Clarifying the Relationship of
State and Local Law Enforcement Agencies with Federal Immigration Authorities.

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