

**My name is Karen Talentino, and I live in South Portland. I am writing today in support of 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.**

Every day we become aware of the increasing number of people who are detained by federal ICE agents without warning and typically without providing any information about what will happen to the person being targeted. In many cases there is no legal documentation for the action, and the detained person is taken away to undisclosed destinations. U.S. citizens have been taken, as well as legal refugees and asylum seekers.

These operations create fear and distrust in our communities. They disrupt our lives and our livelihoods. Their impact goes well beyond the unimaginable impact on the detained individual and their family – the entire community suffers. They divert the important local work that our local law enforcement should be focused on.

I believe that local law enforcement personnel should not become involved in these immoral operations, except as required by law. Local law enforcement should instead focus on protecting those most vulnerable in our communities and spend their resources on crimes that are directly affecting our communities.

LD 1971 would protect workers and clarify relationships and responsibilities among state and local law enforcement with federal immigration authorities.

Please take this step to protect our communities, our neighbors, our friends, our families.