

roberta sharp
Bar harbor
LD 1259

Good afternoon Representative Rana and Honorable members of the Judiciary Committee:

My name is Roberta Sharp from Bar Harbor Maine.

I am writing to ask you to support LD 1259 and LD 1971, bills that will prohibit our local law enforcement agencies from entering into agreements with ICE or providing them with information on individuals.

I feel that our island has a trusting relationship with local law enforcement to be advocates for our wellbeing and safety. I have worked in emergency services for 40 years and have had very positive experiences with their services. We depended on working together for the good of all.

In light of recent ICE activity in Maine, I want to continue that trusting relationship but I have witnessed an occasion that caused me concern. I have wondered about certain police actions that could be violating constitutional rights. As a citizen, I approached a scene that I felt I had to respond to. It turned out not to be an ICE activity, but it caused me to be fearful of local enforcement agents. This is not a feeling we need to have in our town. We need to be able to rely on everyone's safety ensured by a police force that is not involved in ICE activities.

I live in a community that depends on the use of immigrants to support our tourism industry and local economy. My heritage has been involved in both the tourism and fishing industry's for generations. I have witnessed a change in the makeup of our communities to include a diverse group of people that have been well integrated. Due to the high volume of visitors to Acadia National park, our law enforcement agencies are already compromised and overwhelmed. We need them for the professional jobs that they are currently doing without additional burdens of the federal responsibilities of ICE. We need to trust that they are protecting all people in a compassionate manner.

I urge you to vote in favor of LD 1259 and LD 1971 this afternoon. Thank you for your support. Roberta Sharp