

Grey Louisos
Portland
LD 1259

Good afternoon, Senator Carney, Representative Kuhn and honorable members of the Judiciary Committee.

My name is Grey Louisos, I live in Portland, and I am writing to testify in favor of LD 1259 and LD 1971.

I have been horrified watching the ramping up of ICE's actions that threaten the safety and humanity of our families and community members. More and more they violate the protection against unreasonable searches and seizures, the guarantee of due process, the guarantee of equal protection and freedom from discrimination based on race, ethnicity, and national origin, tear families apart and undermine community trust in local institutions.

The constitution's guarantees of due process and equal protection apply to everyone in the United States, regardless of immigration status. This administration, and others before it, have violated constitutional rights to carry out their mass deportation agenda. I don't support Maine law enforcement agencies' participation in federal orders that may be illegal and create a culture of fear and cruelty in our communities.

All people deserve to be supported in seeking safety, health, and education. Public institutions must remain spaces we can all access safely without fear of retaliation or having our rights, families, and livelihoods stripped away. Failure to maintain this basic access will continue to have catastrophic impacts on public safety, public health, and community trust.

I urge you to vote in favor of LD 1259 and LD 1971. Thank you for your time.