

Thank you Senator Carney, Representative Kuhn and honorable members of the Judiciary Committee for this opportunity to submit written testimony. My name is Connie Jenkins. I am a retired nurse practitioner and citizen of Belfast.

I am writing in support of **LD 1259** and **LD 1971**. These bills have particular significance for me because I grew up with a family member who was an officer of the Border Patrol and later of the Immigration Naturalization Service, an agency whose functions are now incorporated into ICE and CBP. I became aware of the frequently appalling treatment of so-called “aliens”, people who fled their countries not because they wanted to leave but because it was unsafe for them to stay, often because of conditions supported by the United States. I learned that undocumented refugees are welcome in certain unauthorized situations . . . doing work that no one else wants to do, with less than minimal pay and horrible living situations, out of fear. . . a type of slavery.

We in Waldo County had quite a “wake-up call” in March when a deputy with the Waldo County Sheriff’s Office pulled over a vehicle that was allegedly speeding along Route 220 in Montville and emergency dispatchers reported the driver to the Border Patrol. Many members of the community were furious that the sheriff’s office had cooperated with the Border Patrol and subsequently raised \$200,000 to help the family. Whether it is the Border Patrol or ICE, these are federal agencies that are not welcome and should not have influence in our communities. They are part of a system that has nothing to do with protecting citizens and everything to do with racism, power and money.

I was appalled to learn that the Wells Police Department entered a Task Force-style 287(g) agreement with ICE, effectively turning members of the Department into ICE agents. I do not want the same thing to happen in Belfast or any other community in Maine. For this reason, I strongly support **LD 1259** which would make it illegal for any Maine law enforcement agency to enter into agreements like the 287(g) agreement and carry out federal immigration enforcement actions on behalf of ICE. I also support **LD 1971** which makes clear the relationship of state and local law enforcement agencies, including correctional facilities and state employees, with federal immigration authorities.

Thank you for considering my testimony.

Connie Jenkins  
Belfast  
LD 1259

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