

May 18, 2025

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

My name is Erika Arthur and I am a resident of Freedom, Maine. I am writing today to express my support for LD 1259: An Act to Enhance Public Safety in Maine by Defining the Relationship Between Local and Federal Law Enforcement.

Without the passage of this bill, jurisdictions in Maine can enter into agreements with the federal government that will:

- undermine public safety and public health by fostering a climate of fear in immigrant communities, whose input is critical to preventing and solving crimes and whose health and wellbeing should be protected regardless of their immigration status;
- strain the resources of already overburdened local agencies and give them responsibilities for areas of law enforcement for which they are not trained; and
- increase the likelihood that local agencies will be empowered to carry out unconstitutional and racially biased policies (See the ACLU's 2022 report on the subject: <https://www.aclu.org/publications/license-abuse-how-ices-287g-program-empowers-racist-sheriffs>).

I urge you to support the passage of this bill in order to protect our immigrant neighbors from violations of their rights and to safeguard public health and safety for all the people of Maine.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Erika Arthur', with a stylized, flowing script.

Erika Arthur