

Sasha Michaud
Auburn
LD 1259

Good afternoon, Senator Carney, Representative Kuhn and honorable members of the Judiciary Committee. My name is Sasha Michaud, I live in Auburn, ME, and I am here to testify in favor of both LD 1259 and 1971.

Intent vs. Impact... We could discuss ICE's intentions and Trump's intentions... but unfortunately, the way that many people view non-US citizens as "lesser" means that this conversation stops almost as quickly as it starts. These people's livelihoods alone SHOULD matter to you, but in the case that it doesn't:

The impact, however, of ICE raiding the streets and looking for those they deem to be "dangerous immigrants" is a whole other conversation. I hope all will listen and acknowledge the danger of the slippery slope we are on and already sliding down. If ICE can kidnap legal permanent residents and force them to face potential deportation, like Jesus Ramos of Texas, how can we trust that there is a line? When students are being pulled from the streets, like Rümeysa Öztürk a Tufts doctoral student here on a student visa, and then being dragged across state lines and away from their communities... how can you be sure the next person taken away won't be your family or friend?

When ICE is allowed to partner with local police, it not only undermines public safety, but it takes our police away from positions where they are actually needed to maintain public safety.

Plus, a lot of what ICE has done has been unconstitutional (again, legal citizens and people visiting the US legally have been detained, likely traumatized, and sometimes deported). Do we want our police to be playing a direct part in breaking the laws we stand on? I sure hope not. It is the responsibility of each one of us to acknowledge when people and/or organizations cross the line and hold them accountable.

Please, I beg of you, do your part and hear us.

I urge you to vote in favor of LD 1259. Thank you for your time, I'm happy to answer any questions that you have.