

Kerry Read
Paris
LD 1971

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

My name is Kerry Read and I live in the town of South Paris. I am testifying in support of LD1971, both as a concerned citizen and as a member of the Unitarian Universalist Church.

My faith tradition, like many others, teaches that we are all inherently worthy of being treated with dignity and respect. Our value does not change with our immigration status.

I am concerned about my neighbors and friends that might not look or speak like the majority of people in the area but are good, kind, hard working, tax paying, law abiding members of our community. When I see innocent people, being stolen from their families, friends and communities without judicial warrants and without access to legal representation or due process of the law, I join every justice seeking American in protesting this abuse of power and propagation of fear tactics.

Those fear tactics destabilize the entire state, not just individuals and families. When people live in fear, their nervous systems go on "high alert" and their instincts tell them to run or hide. Adults miss work, students miss school and community members stay away from any public event for fear of getting caught in the cross hairs of predatory law enforcement. Crimes go unreported. Victims of domestic abuse and human trafficking have no reason to trust that officers of the law will offer them protection and safety. Propagating fear erodes the very fiber of Maine's economy, culture and communities.

We all deserve to live free from fear of intimidation or threat of unconstitutional arrests and "disappearing" of our loved ones.

I have every confidence that my local police department is committed to enforcing the law AND respecting the rights of our community members.

I do not want them taking on the role of ICE agents. We pay them to serve and protect us, not to detain and deport our neighbors and friends. I am thankful for my local police department's service and their dedication to responsibly maintaining the safety of our community.

For the sake of our freedom to live free from fear and in safe and law abiding communities; for the inherit worth and dignity of all Mainers, I ask you to vote "Ought to Pass on LD 1971.

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