

Jonathan Frost
ROCKLAND
LD 1971

Hello, Judiciary Committee Members. I urge you to approve LD 1259 and LD 1971.

I think there are times when municipal, county, and state law enforcement officers should cooperate with federal law enforcement officers. However, I don't think that municipal, county, and state law enforcement officers are duty-bound to cooperate with every priority of every federal administration.

I'm not in sympathy -- and I don't think most Mainers are -- with the federal administration's aggressive push to find and expel people of foreign birth, on whatever pretext it chooses.

This aggressive push is being made sloppily, cruelly, dishonestly, and illegally. Horrible mistakes are being made. The targeted people are not being accorded due process, nor, in many cases, even an opportunity to communicate with near kin. Often, neither near kin nor the public is being told the whereabouts of removed persons, nor the crimes for which they're being held. The administration is defying court orders. With strained logic, it's justifying its removal of alleged members of the Venezuelan gang Tren de Aragua by citing the wartime Alien Enemies Act. To use this act, the administration has to show that Tren members are agents of a hostile Venezuelan government. The National Intelligence Council, composed of agencies like the CIA, the FBI, and the National Security Agency, found that Tren members had not received instructions from the Venezuelan government. Because this finding undercuts the administration's claims, the acting chief of staff for Tulsi Gabbard, director of national intelligence, told Michael Collins, acting director of the National Intelligence Council, to redo its finding. Despite the administration's wishes, and its willing reliance on falsehoods, the National Intelligence Council confirmed its finding.

No law enforcement agency in Maine should cooperate in this hideous process. Thank you for considering this testimony.

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