

Mackenzie Morris
Rockland
LD 1259

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

My name is Mack Morris, I live in Rockland, and I am here to testify in favor of LD 1259 and LD 1971.

Thank you for the opportunity to share my thoughts on these deeply important matters. As human rights are increasingly threatened across the country, it is crucial that we take every step possible to protect our communities. To demand safety for immigrants here in Maine is to support all Mainers.

Collaboration between ICE and local law enforcement does not serve our communities. Programs like 287(g) promote fear and intimidation among undocumented folks and lawful residents alike, all while placing unnecessary strain on local resources. I have lived in Maine for my entire adult life and much of my adolescence. There are so many things I love about our state, and there are other aspects I hope will change for the better: namely, the treatment and inclusion of our BIPOC neighbors and potential neighbors. When I moved Downeast in 8th grade, I was welcomed and accepted on a level I had not experienced in my previous hometown, despite being “from away.” I want that for all Mainers, new and old, but especially immigrants and especially BIPOC who are disproportionately impacted by the current immigration agenda. These community members have an intrinsic right to safety and security, which should be enough. Their presence benefits all of us: culturally, economically, and beyond. These bills can help to keep folks in school, at work, and contributing to our shared lives across the state.

I strongly urge you to vote in favor of LD 1259 and LD 1971. Please do your part in building and protecting our communities, working toward a Maine where we all feel safe and want to be. Thank you very much for your time.