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Testimony of Representative Grayson Lookner in Support of both
**LD 1259, An Act to Enhance Public Safety in Maine by Defining the Relationship
Between Local and Federal Law Enforcement; and LD 1971, An Act to Protect
Workers in This State by Clarifying the Relationship of State and Local Law
Enforcement Agencies with Federal Immigration Authorities**

Before the Joint Standing Committee on Judiciary

Good morning, Senator Carney, Representative Kuhn and esteemed colleagues on the Committee on Judiciary. My name is Grayson Lookner, and I represent House District 113, which includes several neighborhoods in Portland. Thank you for considering my testimony in support of **LD 1259, An Act to Enhance Public Safety in Maine by Defining the Relationship Between Local and Federal Law Enforcement; and LD 1971, An Act to Protect Workers in This State by Clarifying the Relationship of State and Local Law Enforcement Agencies with Federal Immigration Authorities.**

Maine is a state built by immigrants—from the Franco-American workers who powered our mills, to the Somali, Congolese, and Angolan families revitalizing our towns today. They are our neighbors, coworkers, and small business owners. They strengthen our communities. Yet right now, our state resources could be used to tear families apart—and history warns us where that path leads.

The Oxford Handbook on Genocide Studies identifies mass deportations as a key tool of ethnic cleansing. When local police become entangled in federal immigration enforcement, it erodes trust, fuels racial profiling, and normalizes the surveillance and removal of vulnerable people. History will judge us—not on budgetary considerations, but on whether we stood by as Mainers were targeted for deportation, or whether we said: Not with our resources. Not in our name.

LD 1259 and LD 1971 draw a clear line: Maine law enforcement should focus on public safety, not on bogeymen and scapegoats. These bills ensure police can still pursue actual threats to public safety—regardless of status—while prohibiting collaboration with ICE that sows fear in

our communities. They protect due process, limit detention to 48 hours for immigration holds, and guarantee that the seasonal workers who support our tourism and hospitality industries won't have to live in fear of our state's law enforcement.

Right now, our county jails are being used to house hundreds of undocumented workers who have been rounded up from around the country. They are shipped here temporarily in order to make it impossible for their families or legal representatives to keep up with them in order to circumvent due process. Our state should not be complicit in the undermining of our constitutional rights that this represents.

Federal policies change, but deportations have lasting consequences. Let's ensure Maine never looks back and asks: Why did we help?

I urge you to pass LD 1259 and LD 1971. Stand with immigrants. Stand on the right side of history.

Thank you.