

Meredith Bruskin
Swanville
LD 1259

Senator Carny, Representative Kuhn and honorable members of the Judiciary Committee: My name is Meredith Bruskin and I live in Swanville, and am writing in support of LD 1259 and LD 1971. Both bills will not only protect all persons in Maine from what has become blatant disregard of human rights of immigrants by Custom and Border Patrol agents in collusion with ICE, but also for our local and state law enforcement employees, who have been left in such a difficult position--many of whom I am sure, do not support the federal mandate to ignore common decency, let alone legal steps that provide everyone in the US with the right to know what they are accused of, and to obtain legal advice. Most of the folks detained so precipitously are family people who have contributed both to our culture and our economy. Immigrants on Maine do hard work, start businesses, pay taxes. Immigrant spending power in Maine is \$1.7 Billion/year. Maine immigrants pay \$625.1 M yearly in taxes. AND they are our friends and neighbors.

The Trump Administration has created a situation that is becoming both tragic and terrifying for not only those whose lives are disrupted directly, but also for us, other members of the community who believe that our constitution is built on laws that protect the rights all people to be able to have their day in court before being ripped away to detention centers that often are far from support and family. I could name many who have been taken, but noone wants their names public, for fear of retaliation to their families. How very sad for us all.. Just since April, Border Patrol (not including ICE!) has ripped 113 people away from their family and community. And the terrifying detentions are not slowing.

PLEASE stand with us to protect our immigrant community and Maine's long history of care for all Maine residents. We believe in a just world for all and I know you do as well. Support Maine's law enforcement officers--pass LD 1259 and LD 1971. Protect Maine law enforcement agencies from liability for following federal orders that might be illegal. Thank you for your kind attention. Again, you have the opportunity to stand up for democracy--we count on you for that.
Sincerely, Meredith Bruskin, FNP