

LD 1971

May 18, 2025

To: Senator Carney, Representative Kuhn, and Members of the Judiciary Committee

From: Diane Oltarzewski, year-round resident of Belfast

Re: 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

Thank you for this opportunity to testify strongly in favor of LD 1971.

The bill places very clear limitations on what local and state law enforcement can do in the service of a federal customs and border control agenda. As we are learning daily, the federal agenda is seriously flawed, unfair, inhumane, and often illegal.

Maine's local law enforcement agencies are already strained for adequate coverage. They are not trained in the complexities of immigration law, and they do not have the capacity to add Federal law enforcement into their job description. Hasty recruiting by ICE will only jeopardize the careers of our local officers, encouraging them to get in over their heads and depriving them of their focus on the actual remit of protecting and serving the people of Maine, including non-citizens who are legally here and entitled to go about pursuing their legitimate goals, whether it be a green card, asylum, or naturalization as full citizens.

I urge you to vote unanimously that LD 1971 Ought to Pass.

Thank you!