

May 18, 2025

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

From: Diane Oltarzewski, year-round resident of Belfast

Re; LD 1259 An Act to Enhance Public Safety in Maine by Defining the Relationship Between Local and Federal Law Enforcement

I implore you to vote Ought to Pass on LD 1259. This bill will protect Maine law enforcement agencies from liability for following federal orders that are illegal. Because as citizens of Maine, we see what is happening - here and around the country - and we **cannot be complicit** in these blatantly illegal seizures and disappearances of our friends and neighbors.

These actions are being carried out with the slimmest of (or no) justification. Any pretext will do for these agents to apprehend a person, based solely on their Spanish name, the color of their skin, or the tattoo on their arm.

ICE agents ignore documentation of identity and one's right to be in the United States. ICE agents are operating as vigilantes, playing fast and loose with the lives of mostly innocent people, who are contributing to our economy, paying taxes and augmenting the labor force. **And, our whole system of justice has been based on the fact that you are considered innocent until you are convicted in a court of law of a violation or a crime.**

But federal agents do not identify themselves or offer any justification for an arrest. They don't listen to these human beings but treat them as subhuman, to be plucked at random. The right to due process and legal representation has gone out the window. Families are broken up, individuals are shipped far away, cut off from their loved ones and from a lawyer. It is sickening and we must not be complicit in it.

Moreover, as we have learned from the over-militarization of police forces nationally, contractual arrangements offered by federal "law enforcement" only bring trouble to communities. They have been peddling financial incentives to

cash-strapped local agencies for decades, to target people of color for drug trafficking. The result is disproportionate incarceration that can brand people, who are often innocent of serious crime, as felons for life.

We want no part of this outrage in our State. Please vote OUGHT TO PASS.