



# GREATER BANGOR AREA BRANCH NAACP

P. O. BOX 245 BANGOR, ME 04402

May 19, 2025

To: Senator Anne Carney, Chair  
Representative Amy Kuhn, Chair  
Members of the Committee On Judiciary

Re: LD1259 An Act to Enhance Public Safety in Maine by Defining the Relationship between  
Local and Federal Law Enforcement

*and*

LD1971 An Act to Protect Workers in This State by Clarifying the Relationship of State and  
Local Law Enforcement Agencies with Federal Immigration Authorities

Position: FOR LD1259; FOR LD1971

Dear Senate Chair Carney, House Chair Kuhn, and Members of the Committee On Judiciary:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on both of these bills.

Please vote Ought to Pass, on LD1259, An Act to Enhance Public Safety in Maine by Defining the Relationship between Local and Federal Law Enforcement.

Please vote Ought to Pass on LD1971 An Act to Protect Workers in This State by Clarifying the Relationship of State and Local Law Enforcement Agencies with Federal Immigration Authorities.

The Greater Bangor Area (GBA) Branch NAACP opposes local and state law enforcement working with or sharing information with the federal Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) and Customs and Border Protection (CBP). If state and local police were to coordinate with federal law enforcement, it would create a chilling effect on our immigrant communities, it would drain local funds, and may raise taxes on residents.

LD1971 includes additional protections for the people of Maine. Especially significant is that it "...requires a law enforcement agency to release as soon as possible and detain no longer than 48 hours a person determined to be held solely for immigration enforcement purposes." The GBA Branch NAACP strongly supports this and all provisions of LD1971.

As has been documented nationally and within Maine, ICE and CBP have been especially targeting communities of color in their actions. This is a civil rights concern for all the people in Maine, including immigrants; those who were born in this country and born in the state; and those whose ancestors have lived here for thousands of years. We need to uphold the federal Civil Rights Act and Maine's own Human Rights Act.

LD1259 would prohibit state or local law enforcement agencies or officers from entering into contracts with federal immigration authorities. LD1971 establishes a number of additional protections for the people of Maine. The GBA Branch NAACP urges you to vote Ought to Pass on LD1259 and on LD 1971. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Athena Bryce". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Athena" and the last name "Bryce" clearly distinguishable.

Athena Bryce, President of the Greater Bangor Area Branch NAACP