

## 132nd Maine Legislature's Committee on Judiciary

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

Testimony in favor of LD 1259

Chair Carney, Chair Kuhn, and esteemed members of the Joint Standing Committee on Judiciary:

My name is Pamela Proulx-Curry, I am Executive Director of the Maine MultiCultural Center which serves the greater Bangor area and a resident of Old Town. I am submitting written testimony today in support of LD 1259

Working, as I do, very closely with immigrants, I have seen firsthand the devastation caused by the mass immigration policy being pursued by the current federal administration. I am very concerned by the recent push to encourage local law enforcement agencies to enter into 287(g) with Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE). Such agreements make our communities **more** unsafe, not less. I am opposed to them for the following reasons:

**Deputizing local police to carry out federal immigration enforcement turns every routine encounter into a potential deportation risk.** Despite rhetoric, the 287(g) program overwhelmingly impacts people with no criminal history through minor traffic offenses. A 2011 Migration Policy Institute report found that half of all detainers issued were for misdemeanors and traffic infractions.

**Programs like 287(g) make everyone less safe.** They create fear, not cooperation. We all want safety, but safety means being able to call the police when something is wrong, no matter who you are or how you look. When people don't trust police, they're less likely to report domestic violence, fraud, or unsafe working conditions—issues that affect everyone in a community, not just immigrants.

**We cannot Afford to strain local resources.** 287 (g) agreements divert resources away from the investigation of serious crimes and other state and local police responsibilities. Our police are already strained. The last thing they need is another responsibility in an area of law that is constantly changing.

**These agreements put local police at legal risk.** As we have witnessed recently, ICE often operates outside the law, violating people's constitutional rights. When local police assist in illegal apprehensions and detentions, they can be held liable. This has the potential to cost communities millions of dollars.

**Immigration enforcement doesn't just affect people without legal status.** U.S. citizens and lawful residents have been mistakenly detained and even deported. These deportations don't just affect individuals—they tear apart families, disrupt workplaces, and ripple through communities.

287(g) agreements are bad for our communities and local law enforcement agencies should be banned from entering into them. I urge you to pass LD 1259.