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Falmouth
LD 1971

Thank you for opportunity to enter testimony in support of LD 1971. LD 1971 protects public safety by clearly defining the role of Maine law enforcement and state employees. It ensures local officers focus on local priorities and maintains the trust communities need to keep everyone safe. Protecting our residents benefits everyone. Crime is statistically significantly lower in areas with similar polices compared to areas without. Economies have also grown: from higher median household income, less poverty, and less reliance on public assistance to higher labor force participation, higher employment-to-population ratios, and lower unemployment.

We all want safety, but safety means being able to call the police when something's 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. Maine's economy depends on immigrant workers, and stability helps everyone. Immigrants power key sectors across Maine. When families live in fear, they're less likely to show up to work, school, or civic life. That means missed shifts, empty school desks, and fewer people participating in civic life. LD 1971 gives communities the stability they need to keep working, learning, and contributing to a stronger Maine