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LD 1259

One of my daughters looks nothing like me; while I am white, she is brown. When we travel, I carry photocopies of our passports and her birth certificate with my name on it. These documents are safety measures in case we are separated or if an accident occurs. Until now, I have never done this out of fear.

I keep learning that people, brown people like my daughter, have been disappearing; this terrifies me. We now carry her citizenship papers whenever we leave home. Trusted friends have copies just in case. We have electronic versions stored on our phones and computers. This is no way for a family to live.

Deputizing local police to carry out federal immigration enforcement turns every routine encounter into a potential deportation risk. Despite the rhetoric, the 287(g) program overwhelmingly impacts people with no criminal history. The politics of fear becomes real fear when your child could be driving home from their summer job, going a few miles over the speed limit, and instead of getting her first speeding ticket, she could wind up being detained, just because she doesn't look like she was born here. It breaks my heart that this is our reality.

I support this bill because now is the time for the government of Maine to stand up for and behind the people of Maine - all people of Maine, not just the white ones.

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

I urge you to vote in favor of LD 1259.