

Adrienne Horne  
Appleton  
LD 1259

Testimony in support of

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

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

From: Adrienne Horne

May 19, 2025

Senator Carney, Representative Kuhn and honorable members of the Judiciary Committee,

My name is Adrienne Horne, I am a resident of Appleton, and I am submitting testimony in favor of LD 1259: An Act to Enhance Public Safety in Maine by Defining the Relationship Between Local and Federal Law Enforcement.

This bill would protect the due process we have established in Maine and protect the constitutional rights of all members of our community to make sure undocumented people are not punished more harshly than other people. This bill would also prevent increased costs of implementing 287(g) programs around the state and make sure that tax payer money can go directly to local communities, not towards carrying out federal law enforcement priorities.

Hearing about my neighbors in Rockport and Waldo being abducted after routine traffic stops has made me, and my other neighbors feel very horrified, angry, and afraid that not everyone is being given due process. When we see our friends, our coworkers, and our neighbors being separated from their families, it has a ripple effect and contributes to broader feelings of fear and anger throughout the community. At the same time as I am witnessing these cruel actions, I also rely on aging infrastructure of roads that need repair, hospitals that are being shut down, and schools that are being consolidated. I know that money that could go towards revitalizing the infrastructure we need might go towards increasing collaboration with federal immigration authorities. I want to live in a community that is able to meet its needs, not in a community plagued by fear of abductions.

This bill promises to protect our state economy from the disaster of prioritizing 287(g) agreements over local needs. Immigrants pay \$625.1 million in taxes each year and have a state spending power of \$1.7 billion. Threatening immigrant safety in Maine will not only hurt individuals, it will threaten the entire state economy. Making Maine an unfriendly state for immigrants puts at risk tax dollars, spending power, and the tourism industry that relies on almost 10% of immigrant workers in travel accommodation alone. On top of that, other areas that have implemented 287(g) programs have had to raise property taxes. In Prince William County, Virginia, the program cost \$6.4 million in its first year and was slated to cost \$26 million over five years, so the county was forced to cut \$2.1 million from its budget to cut costs. This is an incredible cost to local tax payers while causing more harm to the local economy, constitutional rights, and communities.

On May 2nd, Border Patrol reported detaining 39 people over the course of 10 days in at least 10 towns. On May 8th, Massachusetts immigration attorney Kira Garagin told Maine Public that she is advising her clients and the companies that employ them not to travel to Maine for work because of the rising number of abductions of lawfully present workers by federal immigration enforcement. Local law enforcement cooperation with federal immigration enforcement is already starting to erode trust in public safety in the state and impact the number of workers willing to come to Maine. In small towns in Maine, we are all connected. When 1 person is abducted, it impacts the whole community. We lose parents, workers, and community members who

contribute significantly to what our towns need. It should not be a priority for local law enforcement to spend my taxpayer dollars on abducting my neighbors after routine traffic stops that are related to zero criminal charges. I care deeply about the safety of my neighbors, and LD 1259 would ensure that our justice system protects due process for all of my neighbors while protecting us all from paying increasing costs for abductions that contribute more to a culture of fear than they do to our safety.

I urge you to vote in favor of LD 1259. Thank you for your consideration and for all the work you do for our state,

Adrienne Horne