

My name is Connie McVey and I live in Bangor, Maine. I am giving testimony to urge legislators to pass **LD 1971** An Act to Protect Workers in This State by Clarifying the Relationship of State and Local Law Enforcement Agencies with Federal Immigration Authorities. LD 1971 provides clear boundaries that prevent local and state resources from being entangled in federal operations and helps ensure that Maine's agencies serve all residents. **Protecting our residents benefits everyone.** [Crime is statistically significantly lower in areas with similar policies 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.

I am a licensed clinical social worker at Acadia Hospital and a volunteer at the Maine Multicultural Center (MMC). The immigrant families MMC service are hard working people who are contributing to our local community, working in jobs that have had openings for a while, jobs that many Mainers would not want. They are not only actively contributing to our community but also integrating into our community in positive ways. The families I am supporting attend church and community social events with me and this has enriched everyone involved. Their children attend our local public schools and their presence enriches the school community, via diversity, language and culture. We live in a world that is increasingly global; therefore, bringing immigrants from all over the world into Maine enriches and strengthens our communities, not weakens them. Many of our Maine children will never travel abroad to meet people of different cultures, who speak different languages. Having a more diverse school population, with immigrants from all over the world allows our children to expand their knowledge, their understanding and appreciation of diverse cultures. These experiences may inspire them to travel abroad someday. Our children learn that while there are many differences between people of diverse nationalities, there are more similarities among them than they could even imagine.

Maine State Legislators, I implore you to vote YES on LD1971, a bill that 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.

Respectfully submitted by Connie McVey, Bangor, Maine 5/18/25

