

Claire Horne  
Appleton  
LD 1971

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Appleton, Maine  
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Testimony in Support of 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

Senator Carney, Representative Kuhn and honorable members of the Judiciary Committee. My name is Claire Horne and I am a resident of Appleton, Maine. I am writing to testify in favor of 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

I have been paying close attention to the news reporting on the behavior of federal agents who work for Border Patrol, ICE, and DHS both nationally and statewide. There have been several of my neighbors who have been detained simply because of routine traffic stops. The collaboration between local police and federal immigration agencies has a negative impact on the immigrant community and the community as a whole. It causes many people, regardless of legal status, to feel unsafe going to work or being involved in their communities. I have seen so many examples around the country of the increased pressure of federal agencies to detain immigrants leading to citizens being detained because of racial profiling, immigrants who were pursuing immigration through legal channels being detained when they show up to their hearings, and, as a result, families being tragically separated from each other. This is not how any Mainer should be treated. It makes me fearful that my constitutional rights won't be respected and that we are all at risk. When due process is not afforded to some, it can be denied to all.

Immigrants are important members of our communities and our workforce. Immigrants in Maine make up 4.5% of the state's labor force and nearly 10% of travel accommodation workers in Maine's important tourism industry. It is clear that Maine's economy benefits from immigrant labor and that key industries rely on immigrants to keep running. Maine Public has reported that immigrant workers are now being advised not to travel to Maine for work because of increased activity of Border Patrol detaining and deporting workers, even if they have valid work permits. We will all feel the impact on the state economy unless action is taken to stop police collusion with ICE. We must protect the constitutional rights of all Mainers, and that includes immigrants.

LD 1971 will help protect the rights of Mainers by prohibiting law enforcement from detaining people solely for immigration purposes.

Thank you for your time and for reading my testimony. I strongly urge you to vote in favor of LD 1971.

Sincerely,  
Claire Horne  
Appleton, ME