

Pious Ali
Portland
LD 1259

Testimony in Support of LD 1259, [L] [SEP]
An Act to Enhance Public Safety in Maine by Defining the Relationship Between
Local and Federal Law Enforcement [L] [SEP] May 19, 2025

[L] [SEP]
Dear Senator Carney, Representative Kuhn, and esteemed members of the Judiciary
Committee:

My name is Pious Ali, and I am a Portland City Councilor At-Large, submitting this
testimony in my personal capacity.

I write in strong support of LD 1259, a bill that offers a necessary and principled step
toward strengthening the relationship between local law enforcement and the
communities they serve.

As an immigrant and long-time resident of Maine, I have spent many years working at
the intersection of civic leadership, leadership development, and community
development. Through this work, I have seen firsthand how fear of immigration
enforcement undermines public safety, particularly in our immigrant and refugee
communities.

When local law enforcement is perceived to be working in collaboration with federal
immigration authorities, community trust suffers. People become afraid to call the
police—even when they are victims or witnesses of crime. This is not only unjust; it
is dangerous. It makes our neighborhoods less safe for everyone.

LD 1259 clarifies the appropriate boundaries between local and federal roles. It
ensures that our police departments focus on their core mission: protecting and
serving all members of our community without bias or intimidation.

Passing this bill would send a clear message that Maine values fairness, public safety,
and the dignity of every person who calls this state home.

I respectfully urge the committee to vote in favor of LD 1259.

Sincerely, [L] [SEP] Pious Ali [L] [SEP] Portland City Councilor At-Large (Submitted in Personal
Capacity) [L] [SEP] Portland, Maine