

Camille Hanley
Portland
LD 1259

Senator Duson, Representative Zager, and honorable members of the Joint Standing Committee on The Maine Legislature's Judiciary:

My name is Camille Hanley, I live in the city of Portland, and I am writing to testify my support for the bill LD 1259.

I grew up in the city of Portland. I attended Peaks Island Elementary, King Middle School and Portland High School, and have worked for local businesses from age 14 to present at 29. As a Maine native, I can say that what adds to Portland's brilliance is the complexity and diversity that waves of immigration have provided. Our integrity as a state is reflected in how we welcome people seeking a better life.

Bill LD 1259 would limit abuses of the federal government, which it has been performing through ICE and Border Patrol operations. It would allow local authorities to refuse to carry out human rights violations, such as detaining and removing individuals without due process. These removals can be based on criteria as arbitrary as having parking tickets or wearing a specific soccer jersey that has been listed on a government document, "Alien Enemy Validation Guide," as having ties to gangs without any factual evidence.

I believe everyone in the state of Maine has the right to remain here and carry out the pursuit of happiness. Everyone is entitled to due process if they break the law. I do not want my taxpayer dollars going to fund activity that is reminiscent of Nazi Germany where millions of people were kidnapped or disappeared. Just in the month of April 2025, Border Patrol detained 113 people. In February, Cumberland County Jail detained and held 129 people under ICE orders. We do not need local police working on behalf of these institutions.

Using local police to further Trump's anti-immigration policies undermines public safety and breeds mistrust of enforcement officers in all communities.

I work with two young women who are asylum seekers from Angola. They came into this country legally; they both have jobs and are attending school. Both have created a community here and are law abiding citizens. Every day they are in fear that their protection status may be taken away, or that they may be kidnapped by ICE simply because of their ethnicity during a routine traffic stop, an emergency room visit, or from a xenophobic individual calling authorities on them.

Bill LD 1259 won't stop ICE or Border Patrol from operating in our state, but we can limit their power by not allowing our police to participate in such activities.

I thank you for your consideration and urge you to vote for this bill on behalf of the safety of all Mainers.