

Testimony of David Moltz, MD, DLFAPA  
To the Joint Standing Committee on Judiciary  
132nd Maine State Legislature  
May 19, 2025  
Concerning LD 1971

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

I am Dr. David Moltz, and I live in Portland, Maine. I am submitting this 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.

As noted in my testimony on LD 1259 before this committee, as a psychiatrist I have performed psychological evaluations on a number of individuals who have applied for asylum. I have seen the effects of living under a government that does not respect the rule of law. These individuals often suffer from Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD), and often have difficulty trusting local or federal law enforcement agencies, based on their previous experience in their homeland.

In the current political climate, where immigrants are vilified and may be taken into custody and deported or sent for indefinite incarceration in foreign countries, regardless of legal status and without due process, immigrants and refugees are increasingly frightened, staying in their homes and foregoing any activities such as school, church or healthcare appointments out of fear of arrest and deportation. Regardless of their legal status, they need to feel protected by their local law enforcement agencies, not put in danger by them.

LD 1971 would prevent local and state law enforcement agencies from functioning as an arm of federal immigration authorities. This would protect the immigrants and refugees who have made their home in Maine, and would protect local agencies from acting outside the boundaries of their responsibilities and competence.

I urge you to vote “ought to pass” for LD 1971.

David Moltz, MD, DLFAPA  
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