

Douglas Kimmel
Hancock
LD 1259

My name is Doug Kimmel; I'm an old man who has lived over half of his life in Hancock County in the town of Hancock.

I am writing a brief note to testify in favor of LD 1259, the bill prohibiting local law enforcement from entering into contracts with ICE.

Last Saturday I was shopping at the Walmart in Ellsworth and noting the diversity of shoppers and overhearing some non-English languages being spoken and wondered what their experience shopping for the necessities of life must be like in this time of public attention to the arrest and deportation of immigrants.

As I was leaving, two Ellsworth police cars pulled up and some officers walked into the store.

My heart sank and I hoped it was a simple shoplifting incident or perhaps a medical emergency.

A few minutes later, while at McDonald's I heard a number of other sirens and my blood froze.

What happened to the country we lived in just a few months ago that such an incident would lead this old man to think that ICE might be using the Ellsworth police to raid and check the papers of the dozens of ordinary shoppers at Walmart on a rainy Saturday?.

At the very least, Maine should not allow local police to enter into contracts with ICE for immigration purposes.

Please support LD 1259.

Doug Kimmel, Hancock