

Brooks Gingrich
Brunswick
LD 1259

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

My name is Brooks Gingrich, I live in Brunswick, and I would like to testify in favor of LD 1259.

Regardless of anyone's views on illegal immigration on a federal level, there are two issues that make it clear that we shouldn't have local police cooperating in ICE raids.

The first being that the practice of turning of migrants into the boogeyman is a national issue, not a Maine issue. There just aren't that many people here. In a state of 1.4 million people, endorsing police cooperation with ICE would be the equivalent of pointing our finger at our neighbor. I would urge anyone opposing this bill to have the person or family in mind that you don't think belongs in your community. And if you can't think of anyone, perhaps consider why you think we need such aggressive enforcement in the first place.

The second reason being that the federal government is not affording those subjected to raids the due process we need to ensure the state does not overstep. If we reject this measure, our police officers would be sending these men and women to a certain fate without the most basic safeguards against illegal behavior by the state or errors in its execution. This is an opportunity for Mainers to hold a referendum against these unconstitutional practices and reaffirm the principle that arbitrary impositions against any individual are a threat to us all.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I urge you to vote in favor of LD 1259.

Brooks Gingrich