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LD 1259

I am writing in support of LD 1259 and LD 1971 and ask that you advance these bills from committee.

There are a multitude of reasons to oppose ICE collaboration in Maine, so I'll just focus on a couple:

1. As described in the NYTimes article "Inside Trump's Crackdown on Dissent: Obscure Laws, ICE Agents and Fear," Trump's appointees are saying things like "Freedom of speech has limitations." ICE is being used as a tool to carry out political repression, not for national security as is claimed.

2. Even if ICE was focused on protecting people, its track record is atrocious and has been under every administration since its inception. The lived realities in ICE custody often violate people's fundamental human rights. Families are routinely torn apart, citizens have been mistakenly exiled, court orders for returned deportees are going ignored. Any benefits the US may get from ICE's existence are massively outweighed by the destruction, indignity, and cruelty it leaves in its wake. This carceral approach to "immigration enforcement" is not fit for purpose and cannot be reformed.

Specifically regarding the bills at hand,

State and local partnerships with ICE have long been the subject of controversy, including allegations of racial profiling that were borne out by Department of Justice (DOJ) investigations. In part because of such problems, in the past decade, at over 40 287(g) agreements have been terminated or not renewed. Some states, such as California, New Jersey and Illinois, already have sanctuary laws that prevent local jurisdictions from signing 287(g) agreements. Maine should be the next.

Please support LD 1259 and LD 1971.