

May 19th, 2025

To: Senator Anne Carney
Representative Amy Kuhn
Joint Standing Committee on Judiciary
From: Emanuel Pariser, Waterville, Maine Resident

RE: LD 1259 Testimony **Supporting** LD 1259, “**An Act to Enhance Public Safety in Maine by Defining the Relationship Between Local and Federal Law Enforcement.**”

Date of Hearing: May 19th, 2025

Chair Carney, Chair Kuhn, and Members of the Joint Standing Committee on Judiciary:

I would like to voice my **support** for LD 1259 for the following reasons:

1. Some of my relatives were lucky enough to escape Germany before being placed in concentration camps. The Nazis started by attacking Jews, gays and gypsies (the Roma people) and other stateless people; our current federal administration is targeting immigrants without due process, most of whom are not criminals, have no record, and have come to our country legally.
2. I am a believer in due process. No one, regardless of their legal status who resides in our country, should be considered guilty prior to the due process and protections we provide to everyone who lives here. All humans need to be treated like humans regardless of the color of their skin, their country of origin, or the language they speak. ICE does not follow this simple constitutional mandate.
3. As I understand it, LD 1259 prohibits all Maine law enforcement agencies from entering into a 287 (g) agreement to **carry out** federal immigration law enforcement actions **on behalf of ICE**. With overtime spending on police increasing by almost 30% in the last five year, Maine law enforcement has enough trouble meeting the challenges it faces without adding a whole other level of responsibilities that would be uncompensated.
4. Besides adding a strain to already strained law enforcement resources, entering into a 287 (g) agreement would unnecessarily create distrust of law enforcement among the immigrant community that would reduce their safety as well as those of the general public. Anyone concerned about being detained and deported would most likely not volunteer information to help solve crimes either leveled against the immigrant community or within the immigrant community.
5. Law enforcement liability would increase substantially when they carry out Federal Immigration law without rigorous training and supervision. Local police departments engaging in this activity through a 287 (g) agreement would leave themselves open to lawsuits any time they made a mistake which ICE already has nationwide in many situations. Should Maine towns and counties pay for this kind of liability?
6. Immigrants are a critical part of Maine's economy. They make up almost 5% of Maine's labor force; they pay \$625+ million in taxes; and they account for close

to 10% of our tourism workforce. We want them to feel welcomed, safe, and protected in their new homes. LD 1259 is a critical support to that end.

Thank you for taking this testimony seriously and for hearing this bill. Please vote "Ought to Pass" on LD 1259.

Emanuel Pariser
Waterville, Maine