

May 19<sup>th</sup>, 2025

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

RE: LD 1971 Testimony **Supporting** 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.”

Date of Hearing: May 19<sup>th</sup>, 2025

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

I would like to voice my **support** for LD 1971 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 frequently does not follow this simple constitutional mandate.
3. As I understand it, LD 1971 prohibits Maine law enforcement from performing the functions of Federal Immigration services and responding to administrative warrants issued to them to do so. In Maine we believe in the Constitution and the right to due process; it is clear from their behavior in the past 100 days that the Federal Government does not feel constrained by these guardrails. Mistakes will be made and local police departments already under resourced and over taxed will be sued. Maine communities cannot afford this.
4. LD 1971 clarifies that if evidence and judicial warrants exist, an individual who may be an immigrant has committed a crime, Maine police can carry out their law enforcement responsibilities. Criminals who are immigrants will be detained, but will also have due process as guaranteed by the Constitution.
5. This bill also protects Maine State Workers from being forced to ask the immigration status of an individual unless the inquiry is “required by law, or necessary to provide the service sought by the resident.”
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 1971 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 1971.

Emanuel Pariser  
Waterville, Maine