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LD 1259

I strongly support LD 1259 and prohibiting Maine police and sheriffs from entering into 287(g) agreements that deputize them to enforce federal immigration law.

It's a misuse of limited resources for local law enforcement to investigate individuals' immigration status. Maine police officers and sheriff's deputies should be focused on community needs. I cannot believe that towns are even considering turning over local funds to federal law enforcement. Why should municipalities divert their tax dollars to pay for the federal government's "mass deportation" agenda?

What is a realistic estimate of the financial investment required for immigration and border patrol activities? These 287(g) agreements require significant local resources, including salaries, benefits, overtime, and administration costs. Municipalities have spent millions, with some even requiring increases in property taxes, to cover new expenditures.

Also, 287(g) agreements expose towns to costly legal liability. Federal immigration law is complex; the training requirements for local law enforcement to begin enforcing it are minimal and cannot prepare officers adequately. Municipalities have lost millions of dollars in legal settlements after violating people's civil rights.

Immigration enforcement is fraught with racial profiling and civil rights violations. Agreements to actively enforce federal immigration laws endanger Mainers' constitutional rights. Violations of Fourth Amendment protections are likely. Without the safeguards of a judicial warrant, ICE detainers have repeatedly resulted in the illegal detention of individuals who have not broken any immigration laws and are not deportable, including US citizens and immigrants who are lawfully present in the US.

Thank you for supporting LD 1259, being fiscally responsible, and protecting the civil rights of Maine people!