

William Burford
Belfast
LD 1259

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

My name is William Burford, I live in Belfast, Maine, and would like to testify in favor of LD 1259.

Maine resources should be used for Maine communities.

All people in Maine need to be supported in seeking safety, health, and educational opportunities, so law enforcement, health care facilities, and schools must remain spaces they can access without fear of retaliation. Failure to maintain basic access would have catastrophic impacts on public safety and public health.

Maine resources are already strained, with overtime spending on police increasing by almost 30% over the last 5 years.

Maine law enforcement is not trained in the complex and changing area of immigration law, and does not have the capacity to add Federal law enforcement into their job description.

These bills protect Maine law enforcement agencies from liability for following federal orders that might be illegal.

Immigrants are vital members of our economy and our communities, and they have constitutional rights.

The constitution's guarantees of due process and equal protection apply to everyone in the United States, regardless of immigration status.

This federal government – and others before it – have violated constitutional rights to carry out their mass deportation agenda.

Immigrants in Maine are a critical driver of our state's economy. They do hard jobs, start businesses, and pay taxes. It's important for the legislature to value them for the future growth of Maine.

There are 32,200 immigrant workers in Maine, making up 4.5 percent of Maine's labor force (note: this includes immigrants who have naturalized).

Immigrant spending power in Maine is \$1.7B.

Maine immigrants pay \$625.1M in taxes each year.

Maine immigrants' contributions to Social Security are \$205.5M.

Maine immigrants' contributions to Medicare are \$57.9M.

Tourism, Maine's biggest industry, is heavily dependent on immigrant labor, and on immigrants coming to Maine for vacation.

I urge you to vote in favor of LD 1259.

Thank you for your time and for your service for all the people of Maine.