

## **Testimony of Doug Moore**

### **In Support of 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”**

**Submitted to the Judiciary Committee**

**May 19, 2025**

Senator Carney, Representative Moonen, and distinguished members of the Judiciary Committee:

My name is Doug Moore and I’m writing in strong support of LD 1971.

### **Summary**

LD 1971 is, at its core, a “Let’s not let our cops pretend they’re on *Border Patrol: Kennebec County Edition*” bill. It keeps our local law enforcement focused on actual crimes instead of moonlighting as ICE agents. No more detaining people past their release date just because ICE sent a strongly worded letter. No more asking someone where they were born during a routine traffic stop. And absolutely no more letting ICE set up shop in our jails like they’re renting an office on Craigslist.

This bill still allows cooperation when there’s a real public safety concern or criminal activity — but it draws a clear line between actual law enforcement and civil immigration enforcement, which is a *federal* job.

### **Why It Matters for Maine**

Let’s talk about Maine — because while this is a civil rights issue nationwide, LD 1971 is especially relevant *here*.

Maine is the oldest state in the country by median age. We need working-age people to keep our economy afloat. From Lewiston’s textile mills to Portland’s restaurants to the blueberry fields in Washington County, immigrants are already doing the work. So when ICE shows up with a clipboard and a vague suspicion, and our police get involved, the message we send is: “We want your labor, but not your life.” That’s not just morally bankrupt — it’s economically suicidal.

Lewiston, Auburn, Portland, Biddeford, and Bangor all have growing immigrant communities. These residents aren’t abstract policy issues — they’re our neighbors, our coworkers, and in many cases, our caretakers. And when they fear that calling the police might land them in a detention center, the entire community suffers. Victims don’t come forward. Witnesses stay silent. And the cycle of crime — real crime — continues.

And here’s the kicker: local law enforcement doesn’t even *want* this job. Ask any police chief in Maine if they’re eager to take on ICE’s paperwork and civil detainer system, and

you'll hear some version of "We're already swamped." This bill protects police resources and shields towns from liability when they do the right thing and let someone go who's not facing any criminal charges.

And about that — ICE detainers? They're not warrants. They're not court orders. They're basically strongly-worded suggestions from an agency with a history of overreach, civil rights violations, and losing track of children. If ICE wants someone held, they can get a judge to sign a warrant just like everyone else has to.

### **Let's Not Pay for Federal Overreach**

Here's another fun fact: when local agencies help ICE, they often do it without reimbursement. That means Maine taxpayers are footing the bill to enforce federal civil law — often in cases where the person hasn't even committed a crime. I don't know who needs to hear this, but Scarborough property taxes weren't meant to subsidize ICE sting operations.

### **Final Thoughts**

LD 1971 doesn't stop ICE from doing its job. It just stops them from *outsourcing* it to Maine police departments who didn't ask for the gig. It protects public safety, keeps families intact, and restores the kind of trust that good policing depends on.

Please vote ought to pass.

Thank you for your time and commitment to justice.

Respectfully,  
Doug Moore  
Sabattus