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May 19, 2025

**RE: Support for bills to protect public safety:**

- **LD 1259: An Act to Enhance Public Safety in Maine by Defining the Relationship Between Local and Federal Law Enforcement**
- **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**

Senator Carney, Representative Kuhn, and Members of the Judiciary Committee

I am writing to express my strong support for both *LD 1259: An Act to Enhance Public Safety in Maine by Defining the Relationship Between Local and Federal Law Enforcement*, and *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*

I understand and strongly support the intent of both bills, and specifically,

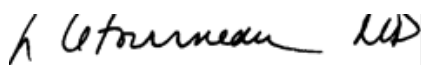
- LD 1259, which would make it illegal for any Maine law enforcement agency to enter into a 287(g) agreement and carry out federal immigration enforcement actions on behalf of the federal Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) agency
- LD 1971, which would clarify the roles of local law enforcement as separate and distinct from those of immigration authorities.

I am proud that Maine has been a welcoming place for many immigrants fleeing countries that have been hostile to their health and safety, and it is clear that the vast majority of immigrants coming to Maine have been positive contributors and have not posed a threat to our communities. We have all seen many recent examples of extremely disturbing and destructive actions by ICE to separate and deport immigrants - including those here legally and arrested for “infractions” as minor as unpaid parking tickets – separating families and subjecting individuals to cruel and inhumane conditions without due process.

Collaboration with ICE is not required by law; it is a choice by local communities and law enforcement, and one that exposes people to deportation, family separation, and indefinite detention in a system with little to no due process. It’s a choice that undermines trust in public institutions, spreads fear, and uses local resources to do the bidding of a currently unchecked federal administration.

These bills provide an opportunity for Maine to stand up to injustice and protect our communities. I you’re your encourage strong support.

Thank you.



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Portland Maine