

George Schelling
Orland
LD 1971

Esteemed Legislators:

I am writing to urge passage 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. .

Our local police departments do not have the financial resources nor the training necessary to act as immigration agents. Moreover, it would put our municipal public servants under the control of federal agents who are operating without regard to legal and constitutional rights, such as the conduction of seizures of citizens without warrants, without probable cause and without due process. Making our local police party to these infringements of rights diminishes the protection of citizens and exposes the police themselves to charges of abuse, making them less effective as peacekeepers in our communities.

More particularly, ICE agents and their supervisors, running all the way up the chain to the President, have demonstrated not just ignorance of the law, but active defiance of it. Seizures of individuals, many of whom have protected immigration status and some who are even full fledged US citizens, by ICZE agents who sometimes have no identification, who are sometimes masked, who sometimes have no warrants would ensnare our local peacekeepers in a pattern of Gestapo-like tactics that have roundly been condemned by the courts as infringement of basic rights secured to the people of this country by the Bill of Rights and other provisions of the US Constitution.