

Ashley Schumacher
Freeport
LD 1971

May 19, 2025

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In Support of LD 1259 And LD 1971

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

My name is Ashley Schumacher. I live in Freeport. Thank you for the opportunity to lend my voice in support of the following two bills you will be considering during today's public hearing:

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.

As a Mainer, parent, and someone who celebrates the increasing diversity of our communities, I have been horrified to see that my neighbors have been unlawfully abducted by unidentified individuals, detained without warrant, and denied due process.

I have also been disturbed to learn that several Maine municipal police departments have willingly begun the process of entering into 287(g) agreements. Specifically, the Wells Police Department initiated a Task Force-style agreement which would allow police officers to act as immigration enforcement agents. These 287(g) agreements are harmful to all people in Maine, citizens and non-citizens alike, because they undermine public safety by decreasing trust in local law enforcement, they divert local resources away from current responsibilities, and they increase police liability when ICE violates the constitutional rights that apply to every person on United States soil.

I strongly oppose the usage of my federal, state and property taxes for these unconstitutional practices and furthermore have a moral objection to ICE practices. I therefore urge you to vote "Ought to Pass" on LD 1259 and prohibit Maine municipal police departments from entering into 287(g) agreements.

For the same reasons listed above, I urge you to vote "Ought to Pass" on LD 1971, which strengthens protections for all workers in Maine, particularly pertaining to immigration status.

Thank you for your time, consideration, and commitment to the wellbeing of all people in this State.

Ashley Schumacher