

Ann Dodd-Collins
Portland
LD 1259

Dear Senator Carney, Representative Kuhn, and members of the Judiciary Committee,
My name is Ann Dodd-Collins. I live in Portland, and I am a member of Portland Friends Meeting (Quakers). I am writing in support of LD 1259, "An Act to Enhance Public Safety in Maine by Defining the Relationship Between Local and Federal Law Enforcement".

Our state and local law enforcement agencies should be keeping our communities safe, not carrying out the inhumane immigration policies of the federal government. As a Portland Friends Meeting representative to Maine Immigrants' Rights Coalition (MIRC) and a volunteer with Greater Portland Family Promise (GPFP) I am well aware that our neighbors who are asylum seekers, immigrants, and refugees are living in fear that they may be picked up and jailed or deported simply because their skin is not white or they speak with an accent. When state and local police are acting as Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) agents, they are not investigating real crimes and carrying out their other responsibilities. This bill would be a step towards protecting the most vulnerable in our community and ensuring that our law enforcement individuals are doing the work that keeps our communities safe.

I believe that every person is a beloved child of God, regardless of color, ethnicity, or immigration status. I believe that those who have sought refuge in the United States and in Maine deserve the right to live their lives without fear. Immigration policies such as 287(g) do not make our communities safe; they sow fear and disruption.

Please vote Ought to Pass on LD 1259.
Thank you.