

WRITTEN TESTIMONY in support of LD 1259: An Act to Enhance Public Safety in Maine by Defining the Relationship Between Local and Federal Law Enforcement

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To the honorable members of the Judiciary Committee, I am writing to voice my support for LD 1259.

- Law enforcement resources are stretched thinly across Maine and it is inconceivable that a state, county or local law enforcement agency would enter into any agreement with Immigration and Customs Enforcement to assist them in work that is clearly theirs to manage.
- ICE and the Trump administration are losing in courts across the country when it comes to ICE tactics and the Administration's immigration policies. It's critical our state, county, and local agencies keep themselves free of any liability related to these judicially-determined, illegal actions.

As a Maine resident who lives within miles of our border with Canada and whose work team is 50% Canadian residents, I can attest to the chilling affect ICE has had on our country's reputation and the willingness of Canadian citizens to cross the border. It saddens me and makes me angry that our longest international friends are being made to feel this way. I don't want our Maine agencies to play any part in that...when it comes to international visitors or the trust our own local communities have in them.

Please support and pass LD 1259.

Sincerely,
Ross Pedersen