

Terri Grover  
Portland  
LD 1259

Senator Carney, Representative Kuhn, and esteemed members of the Judiciary Committee:

My name is Terri Grover, and I live in Portland. I raised my three children in Maine and they all attended Portland High School, where over 33 languages were spoken and we learned to appreciate and respect our new Mainer friends for their humanity and courage. I am also a member of the Allen Avenue Unitarian Universalist Church in Portland, where social justice issues are literally part of our mission and value system. I am testifying in support of LD 1259 An Act to Enhance Public Safety in Maine by Defining the Relationship Between Local and Federal Law Enforcement. This bill has caught my interest because it is essential to the safety and well-being of the people of our state. All people in Maine need to be supported in seeking safety, health, and educational opportunities, so law enforcement, health care facilities, and schools must remain spaces they can access without fear of retaliation. The actions that ICE has been taking over the last months are unconstitutional because they deny due process to people who are living in our country. Having our local police forcibly remove people off the street from schools or healthcare facilities would break the trust that is essential to their ability to keep us safe.

As UU's we declare that every person is inherently worthy and has the right to flourish with dignity, love, and compassion. We believe in encouraging multicultural communities where all feel welcome and can thrive.

For these reasons, I urge the committee to vote Ought to Pass on LD 1259.