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LD 1971

Testimony of Amy Strum in support 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”

Good Afternoon, Senator Carney, Representative Kuhn, and honorable members of the Judiciary Committee, I support LD 1971. Maine law enforcement agencies (local police) should not enter into any agreement with ICE, nor should they carry out federal immigration actions on behalf of ICE. And these are the reasons why: 1. The collaboration between local police and ICE will undermine public safety by decreasing trust in local enforcement and making immigrant communities less likely to come forward with information that could solve or prevent crime. 2. The collaboration between local police and ICE will strain local resources by diverting resources away from the investigation of serious crime and other state and local police responsibilities. Our police are already strained. The last thing they need is another responsibility in the area of law that they are not trained in. 3. The collaboration between local police and ICE will increase police liability for federal immigration enforcement practices that have violated constitutional rights that apply to every person on US soil. Whenever police violate rights, they can face costly lawsuits. It is a very slippery slope when our local and community police department do the unconstitutional bidding of a corrupt federal government. We have seen this before in the late 1930s in Germany during the reign of Adolf Hitler. Let us not forget the atrocities that this led to. I conclude with this poem. We must take this as a warning.

“First they came for the Communists^[1] And I did not speak out^[1]
Because I was not a Communist^[1] Then
they came for the Socialists^[1] And I did not speak out^[1]
Because I was not a Socialist^[1] Then they
came for the trade unionists^[1] And I did not speak out^[1]
Because I was not a trade unionist^[1] Then
they came for the Jews^[1] And I did not speak out^[1]
Because I was not a Jew^[1] Then
they came for me^[1] And there was no one left^[1]
To speak out for me.”

Martin Niemoller