Good afternoon, Senator Carney, Representative Kuhn and honorable members of the Judiciary Committee. My name is Nick Janes, I live in South Berwick, and I am writing to testify in favor of LD 1259 for the following reasons:

Maine's public resources should be used to serve Maine's communities, not to enforce federal immigration policy. Our local and state law enforcement officers are already stretched thin. In fact, police overtime spending in Maine has increased nearly 30% over the past five years. Adding complex and ever-changing federal immigration responsibilities to their workload only makes this worse.

LD 1259 is a smart, pragmatic step to protect Maine's limited resources, ensure clarity in the roles of local law enforcement, and preserve the trust and cooperation between immigrant communities and the institutions that serve them. This is especially important for law enforcement, health care providers, and schools. These should always remain safe and accessible places for all Mainers, regardless of immigration status.

We've already seen troubling examples where local police have been pulled into the federal deportation agenda. In Eustis, three passengers were handed over to ICE after a car accident. In Waldo County and Kennebec County, individuals — including asylum seekers — were detained after routine traffic stops. These incidents don't make our communities safer; they erode public trust and distract us from real public safety priorities.

Beyond these immediate public safety concerns, LD 1259 also reflects Maine's commitment to fairness and economic strength. Immigrants are a vital part of Maine's economy. They work hard, pay taxes, and contribute to the future of our state. Over 32,000 immigrant workers make up 4.5% of Maine's labor force. They contribute **$1.7 billion in spending power** and **over $625 million in taxes** every year. They also help sustain critical programs like Social Security and Medicare.

These are our neighbors, coworkers, and friends. They deserve the constitutional protections that apply to **all people in the U.S.**, regardless of immigration status.

I urge you to vote in favor of LD 1259. Thank you for your time.