

Joel Johnson
AUGUSTA
LD 1971

Good afternoon, Senator Carney, Representative Kuhn, and Honorable Members of the Judiciary Committee

My name is Joel Johnson and I live in Augusta. I am here to testify in support of both LD 1259 and LD 1971. I have closely followed news accounts of the the Department of Homeland Security's violations of the US Constitution in their rush to remove people from the country without appropriate notice and due process protections. They are making mistakes and people who have committed no crime and often have a valid right to stay in this country are being removed sometimes directly into indefinite incarceration in a foreign country. I believe it is important for state and local law enforcement not be made to be complicit in these activities. This imposes unfair trauma on everyone including law enforcement and takes these public safety officers away from their primary role of protecting the citizens of the State of Maine. I strongly support both of these pieces of legislation that are designed to clarify the limits of federal authority and keep New Mainers safe and productive residents of our state.

I urge you to pass both of the LDs you have before you today. Thank you.