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Testimony of Representative Morgan Rielly 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
&**

**LD 1259, An Act to Enhance Public Safety in Maine by Defining the
Relationship Between Local and Federal Law Enforcement**

Before the Joint Standing Committee on Judiciary

Good afternoon Senator Carney, Representative Kuhn and distinguished members of the Joint Standing Committee on Judiciary. I am Morgan Rielly, and I represent House District 127, which includes part of Westbrook. I'm here to provide testimony 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** and **LD 1259, An Act to Enhance Public Safety in Maine by Defining the Relationship Between Local and Federal Law Enforcement**.

Immigration is key to America's and to Maine's identity. The ability to attract people from around the world to come here makes this country exceptional. Immigrants are friends, co-workers and family members. They start businesses, pay taxes, are engaged community members and make this state a better place to live.

In President Reagan's farewell address, he shared the following:

"I've spoken of the shining city all my political life, but I don't know if I ever quite communicated what I saw when I said it. But in my mind it was a tall, proud city built on rocks stronger than oceans, wind-swept, God-blessed, and teeming with people of all kinds living in harmony and peace; a city with free ports that hummed with commerce and creativity. And if there had to be

city walls, the walls had doors and the doors were open to anyone with the will and the heart to get here. That's how I saw it, and see it still."

While I disagree with many of President Reagan's policies, I do share his vision of America as a shining city upon a hill with a door "open to anyone with the will and heart to get here." I see the constitution's guarantee of due process and equal protection before the law, regardless of immigration status, as the rocks holding up that city. Slamming that door shut and chipping away at those rocks isn't just an attack on immigrants, it's an attack on anyone who calls this country home. Further, it undermines the ideals of this nation and what makes America exceptional in this world.

President Reagan, myself and many immigrants see America as a shining city upon a hill. We must protect that because it's up to all of us to ensure that it continues to shine.

I want to thank the bill sponsors for bringing these pieces of legislation forward, and I urge the committee to vote "ought to pass" **LD 1971** and **LD 1259**. Thank you very much for your time and consideration.