



Amy Roeder

46 Blackstone Street
Bangor, ME 04401

Amy.Roeder@legislature.maine.gov

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

2 STATE HOUSE STATION

AUGUSTA, MAINE 04333-0002

(207) 287-1400

TTY: MAINE RELAY 711

Testimony of Representative Amy Roeder presenting

LD 1259 and 1971

Before the Joint Standing Committee on Judiciary

Senator Carney, Representative Kuhn and Honorable Members of the Judiciary Committee: My name is Representative Amy Roeder, and I proudly serve House District 23, where I have had the deep privilege of knowing and working alongside Maine families from a wide variety of backgrounds—including many with immigrant roots. I am submitting this testimony today in strong support of **LD 1259** and **LD 1971**, because I have seen firsthand the irreparable harm done when ICE operates with unchecked authority and when local resources are used to enforce federal immigration laws.

Let me be clear: in my district, people have been taken. Picked up on the street. Taken outside their homes. Vanished without notice or due process. One day they are here—parents, employees, neighbors, church members—and the next day they are gone. No warning, no goodbye. Just a stunned, grieving family left behind to pick up the pieces. The term “abduction” is not hyperbolic—it is exactly how it feels to a child who comes home from school and discovers their parent is gone. It is exactly what it is when no one is told where their loved one is being taken.

When the abductions began, I was reminded of the Swift Meat Packing raids of 2006 which affected my home state of Minnesota deeply. On the feast day of the Virgin of Guadalupe (Dec. 12), ICE raided six Swift Meat Packing plants in the Midwest and South. In one city, “The raids left more than 100 children with no parents present, church officials and community organizers said. Hundreds more struggled in newly broken families, asking questions such as “Where is my daddy?” and “Why does immigration exist?”¹

In every one of these cases, past and present, those left behind are left to manage trauma, confusion, and economic hardship. Mothers suddenly become sole providers. Children stop sleeping through the night. Entire communities live under a fog of fear, where showing up for school, reporting domestic violence, or going to the emergency room becomes a risk rather than a refuge.

¹ <https://www.denverpost.com/2006/12/13/raid-leaves-families-fractured/>



Amy Roeder

46 Blackstone Street
Bangor, ME 04401

Amy.Roeder@legislature.maine.gov

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

2 STATE HOUSE STATION
AUGUSTA, MAINE 04333-0002
(207) 287-1400
TTY: MAINE RELAY 711

LD 1259 and **LD 1971** would bring urgently needed clarity and boundaries to the relationship between Maine's local and state law enforcement agencies and federal immigration authorities. These bills do not prevent federal immigration enforcement from occurring—they simply ensure that *Maine* law enforcement is not forced to act as an arm of a system that operates with opaque and frequently inhumane practices. Our officers should be focused on building relationships and protecting public safety, not executing federal immigration strategies that break apart Maine families.

These bills make it clear that local police cannot act on immigration holds or participate in civil immigration enforcement without a judicial warrant. This is basic due process. It is the principle that a person should not be detained in our state without legal justification, oversight, and accountability. These are bills about public safety. About trust. About community cohesion. But above all, they are bills about **dignity**.

Our immigrant neighbors are not a threat—they are a gift. They grow our food, care for our elders, keep our hospitals and schools running, and strengthen the fabric of this state every single day. When we allow ICE to come into our towns and act without transparency or accountability, we betray not just them—we betray our shared values.

Maine can and must do better. We can refuse to be complicit in unjust systems. We can say: not here. Not our schools. Not our workplaces. Not our families.

I urge the Committee to vote Ought to Pass on both LD 1259 and LD 1971. Thank you for your time, and for your commitment to justice in the state of Maine.

Sincerely,
Rep. Amy Roeder
House District 23