

Heather Denkmire
Portland
LD 1259

Hello Senator Carney, Representative Kuhn and honorable members of the Judiciary Committee. My name is Heather Denkmire, I live in Portland, and I am here to testify in favor of LD 1259.

I know people who have all the required legal documentation but are now living in nearly constant (reasonable!) fear that they will be pulled off the street because they look like they might be here without documentation. Living in nearly constant fear impacts my friends and loved ones daily lives. The stress impacts their ability to move freely in their everyday activities. It's not a small thing. Plus, there are many people who are here in Maine in the process of securing documentation who also deserve to live free from fear.

It's bad enough knowing that I.C.E. might be hovering around, if there were coordinated efforts with other law enforcement agencies it would be even more omnipresent.

I hope you can put yourself in someone's shoes who doesn't feel safe to walk down the street in their own home town. It's not a way to live and we should ensure our community members have the freedom to move free from fear.

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