

Shemaya Laurel
Gouldsboro
LD 1259

Position: FOR LD1259; FOR LD1971

Dear Senate Chair Carney, House Chair Kuhn, and Members of the Committee On Judiciary,

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on LD 1259 and LD 1971. I am including my testimony on both of these bills in the letter below.

Please vote Ought to Pass, on LD1259, An Act to Enhance Public Safety in Maine by Defining the Relationship between Local and Federal Law Enforcement.

Please vote Ought to Pass on LD1971 An Act to Protect Workers in This State by Clarifying the Relationship of State and Local Law Enforcement Agencies with Federal Immigration Authorities

Federal immigration authorities' activities in Maine have clearly been expanding. Oftentimes individuals who have done nothing wrong are caught up, lives are disrupted, and harms are caused. For example there is the young man seized in Waldoboro who should never have been detained. Because of these kinds of activities, perfectly legal residents, especially people of color, are fearful and some are not even comfortable leaving their homes. This is bad for those individuals and bad for our communities overall, where everything from workers helping to do things like build and repair houses, to young people getting their education which helps to make them stronger contributors to society, are instead staying home out of fear of illegitimate arrest and possible deportation even though so many of them are legally documented and in some cases citizens.

It is vital that State and local law-enforcement authorities do not contribute to the travesty that is currently taking place in our country regarding detention and deportation of hard-working members of our communities, and the deliberate instilling of fear across entire communities of color.

These two bills, LD 1259 and LD 1971, will go a long way toward preventing the state of Maine from being complicit in this illegitimate targeting of members of our communities. In addition to the concrete impacts of these bills, which will help to protect community members, this legislation makes a strong statement that the people of Maine value the Civil Rights Act, and Maine's own Human Rights Act.

Thank you for your time, and please vote Ought To Pass on both LD 1259 and LD 1971.

With best regards,
Shemaya Laurel