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LD 1259

Good afternoon, Chairpersons and members of the committee. My name is Emily Transue and I live in Hodgdon, Maine. I'm entering my testimony today not only as a concerned resident and a passionate political person, but as someone who believes deeply in the values of dignity, community, and equal justice for all. I'm urging you to vote Ought To Pass for House Bill 1259.

I am deeply grateful that this bill seeks to draw clear lines between local law enforcement and federal immigration agencies like ICE and CBP. This is a vital step in protecting the trust that holds our communities together. The fear that is already so present and palpable makes me terrified of what could be to come. When local police act as immigration agents, it doesn't make us safer—it silences victims, deters witnesses, and sows fear in our neighborhoods. Immigrant families, many of whom have lived, worked, and contributed here for years, deserve to feel safe calling for help, reporting crimes, and participating in the life of their communities.

Let us be clear: supporting this bill is not about ignoring federal law—it is about refusing to weaponize local law enforcement against the very people they are sworn to protect. Maine has always stood for compassion, fairness, and strong community bonds. House Bill 1259 upholds those values. I respectfully urge this committee to vote Ought to Pass and take a stand against fear-based enforcement tactics that tear families apart and endanger public trust.

Thank you for your time and your commitment to a safer, more inclusive Maine. And thank you to Representative Rana for bringing this forth.