

Maggie Harding  
Southwest Harbor  
LD 1971

Introduction:

“Good afternoon, Senator Carney, Representative Kuhn and honorable members of the Judiciary Committee. My name is Maggie Harding, I live in southwest harbor, and I am here to testify in favor of LD 1259.

Once known as “the melting pot”, this country was built on the backs of immigrants, black, brown, yellow, white-

When people say, “but my grandparents came here legally!” Ellis island didn’t need to see your documents. You stepped onto land and were given a place, albeit sometimes squalor. This time is no different than when the Irish and Italians were treated as scum. isn’t it interesting to have seen so much progress, but actually- 0 has been made at all.

As a chef who has worked with immigrants in kitchens my entire adult life there is no one I’d rather have at my side than the people who came here seeking a better life for themselves, their families- sometimes fleeing war torn countries and police states- like the one we now call home is turning. They work hard, they put the hours in for the minimal pay in comparison to their output.

How are servers going to make their tips when they have no one to cook the food? No less harvest, process and transport it? It’s so near sighted, insulting and makes me sick.

Why do we want to be part of the problem, why do we wish to white wash Maine- no less America? The colors, the flavors, the culture that was once seen as a gift, which gave way to much we have assimilated into our country and now call our own, are under attack, being threatened to being ripped away.

These are friends, family, mothers, fathers- we need to work harder to abolish fear of “different”, and realize that’s one of the ways that make this country so beautiful.

Also, can we PLEASE address the largest criminal population in this country before we just pick out our least favorite colors?

I urge you to vote in favor of LD 1259. Thank you for your time, I’m happy to answer any questions that you have.

Sincerely,  
Maggie Harding