

Kaia De Vries
Orono
LD 1259

My name is Kaia De Vries, I live in Orono Maine and I would like to voice my support for LD 1259 and LD 1971. I believe that collaboration with ICE, border patrol, and 287(g) agreements are harmful for several reasons.

First, immigrants in Maine are scared by the actions that ICE has taken lately, many of them unlawful. Partnerships between ICE and law enforcement agencies create distrust between immigrant communities and law enforcement. They may chose not to report crimes, fearing detention or deportation. The result being that many feel cut off from this vital resource entirely.

In addition, these partnerships put a strain on local police resources. In other places, counties have had to dip into their rainy day funds and slash their budgets, to implements these 287(g) agreements. I have lived in Fryeburg Maine and can only speak to the police force there. They once shined flashlights through my bedroom window in the middle of the night, waking me up. When I stood to look out my window they shouted "Come on out bud, we know you're up there!" I was 14 years old and our house did not at all match the description of the location they gave for wherever the person they were looking for had reportedly gone. I was frightened and now I am wary of local police in Maine and their ability to handle themselves with dignity and to respect the people they're supposed to protect. I absolutely would not trust this police force to take on any other responsibilities in areas of law that they are untrained for.

Finally, as I mentioned earlier, many of the actions that ICE agents have been taking are unlawful. They have repeatedly violated the constitution, in particular the 4th amendment. This would open up local law enforcement to costly lawsuits which ultimately come out of taxpayers pockets. For these reasons I urge you to vote in favor of LD 1259 and LD 1971.