

Gwendolyn Forrest
Portland
LD 1971

Good Afternoon Senator Carney, Representative Kuhn, and honorable members of the Judiciary Committee. My name is Gwendolyn Forrest, I live in Portland, and I am here to testify in support of LD 1259 and LD 1971.

While there are numerous reasons why I support these bills, I am going to speak briefly today about the climate of fear that will only increase in the absence of these bills, specifically related to health care.

I have loved ones who work in healthcare, and they have shared with me repeatedly how their patients are hesitant to show up for appointments or pursue treatments because they could be stopped along the way.

This includes children who are receiving life saving treatment. In some cases, their parents currently have legal status, but fear that they could lose it in the months ahead, given the actions of the federal administration.

This is one of the many reasons why passage of these bills is so important. Families on their way to doctors appointments should not fear that they could be stopped and their immigration status questioned. They should be able to trust that protect and service means just that, for everyone, regardless of whether they have papers.

I do not want parents anywhere to choose between their children's lives and their ability to stay in the country they call home.

Please vote in favor of LD 1259 and LD 1971. Thank you.