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Project 2025 is coming and I urge Maine's local police departments to adopt or maintain policies limiting local law enforcement engagement in any federal immigration enforcement. Collaborating with federal agencies such as ICE diverts critical resources away from public safety efforts, erodes trust between law enforcement and immigrant communities and creates fear, which prevents immigrant residents from reporting crimes or seeking police assistance. Project 2025 is coming and we urge local police to adopt or maintain policies limiting local law enforcement engagement in any federal immigration enforcement. Collaborating with federal agencies such as ICE diverts critical resources away from public safety efforts, erodes trust between law enforcement and immigrant communities and creates fear, which prevents immigrant residents from reporting crimes or seeking police assistance. When local police participate in federal immigration enforcement efforts, it leads to concerns about racial profiling, violation of constitutional rights and potential costly legal challenges.

Immigration enforcement is the responsibility of the federal government, not local police.

Police should adopt policies which bar agreements under Section 287(g) of the Immigration and Nationality Act; prohibit inquiries about immigration status or sharing immigration status with federal authorities; and our local police should not honor ICE requests to hold individuals beyond their release date without a warrant.

These acts will strengthen the trust our community places in the police while protecting some of our more vulnerable residents.