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LD 1259

I am writing in support of LD 1259. It is extremely important to me that local law enforcement work on behalf of all Mainers. When police departments work as a proxy for ICE, we are propagating a racist and classist system that impacts hardworking and law-abiding Maine residents. As a psychiatrist, I conduct forensic evaluations for asylum seekers. My experience has been that these immigrants are the best of Maine: compassionate people looking to contribute to their communities. The psychological impact of feeling hunted by authorities is incredibly hurtful and can exacerbate or cause mental health disorders including depression, anxiety, and PTSD.

Thank you for your time.