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Appleton  
LD 1971

This is testimony in favor of LD 1259 and LD 1971.

Much of the testimony I heard yesterday, before needing to leave, focused on the expenses and legal risks of collaborating with Federal immigration enforcement, as well as the costs to Maine's economy, and the damage to public safety and health arising from immigrants' fear to report crimes and other emergencies or seek needed medical care. And of course there was testimony on the unconstitutionality and violation of human rights of the overall deportation program with which Maine would be involved... along with the basic immorality of the cruel and often sadistic treatment of the detainees.

What I am concerned with is how being party to this cruel and unconstitutional program would contaminate and corrupt Maine law enforcement and other affected public institutions (emergency response, schools, medical facilities, etc.) I am not a "de-fund the police" advocate or anti-law enforcement. But I expect those who serve the community in a law enforcement capacity to be honest, law abiding, and fair in their duties.

How can Maine expect to attract, recruit and retain well trained law enforcement personnel of integrity and strong ethical character when they are required to break the laws and abuse the civil rights and dignity of people, already living difficult lives. With the obvious criminality, bigotry, and cruelty required, only hateful thugs would want to participate....mob style enforcers, not unbiased enforcers of laws and protectors of the public.

I also wonder what psychological and emotional damage would decent upstanding officers and officials suffer if they are required to become agents of a brutal police state...spreading terror and suffering in their communities.

To allow state officials to cooperate and participate with the current Federal immigration enforcement program can only encourage lawlessness and increase duty related trauma.

Please...support and protect law enforcement from being forced into this nightmare.  
Thank you