

Jason Ward – Cushing. Knox Co Maine - Registered Republican

Recap – Testimony in favor of LD 1259 and LD 1971

Given 5/19/25at Statehouse Rm 438 Judiciary Committee Room

Good afternoon, Chairwoman, and Committee Members.

My name is Jason Ward. I live in Knox County, the town of Cushing Maine it is a rural community. I am a conservative. Republican since I could vote. A graduate of the United States Merchant Marine Academy, a USCG Licensed Captain. I am a veteran of the US Navy, an engineering officer on a guided missile cruiser, and that command's Judge Advocate General. A JAG not a JD. I'd note the differences are material and nuanced and the prevailing body of law is the Uniform Code of Military Justice. Nonetheless I know the difference between a felony and a misdemeanor or civil infraction.

Let us speak plainly. Being out of compliance with regard to immigration is not a felony. Frankly the casual use of "criminal" as the label for anyone not convicted of a felony is the text book case of begging the question. I hear too many of us doing just that, or stringing together bunch of logical fallacies as if making an argument.

I was disappointed not to see GOP C0 SPONSORSHIP of these bills !

This proposed legislation

Prevents the Subordination of our local Cops to the Feds

Avoids Reckless Fiscal behavior - The property taxes in most rural counties in this state will skyrocket this year due to the withholding the very funding they collect from us in taxes. In our County we pay the best we can for good Cops. What communities like ours, don't need is Washington assigning them collateral duties, Cushing is not there subsidize ICE.

AFFIRMS the right of due process, which... did we ever think we'd see under threat?

HALTS the trampling of our State's rights in this area under the Tenth Amendment.

SHINES the Light of Day on 287g. A loosely worded invitation for an ill-defined "arrangement" with the Federal Government without guardrails, or exit ramp.

No thank you Maine will oversee Maine Law enforcement.

As JAG, my counterpart if you will was the Master-at-Arms aboard the Cruiser I served on in the Persian Gulf. He was a character, Viet Nam vet, an Ex Philadelphia Cop and now a Chief Warrant Officer in the Navy. A crusty guy what he told me was those who protect and serve do so effectively only from a place of trust.

A Maine Law Enforcement relationship with ICE, on any terms will break the community covenant at the town and neighborhood level and make cops jobs harder.

I call on all fellow Maine Republicans to support these bills. Enough is enough, let's start acting in the best interests of Maine's Economy, Workforce and Communities.

Thank you Chair and Committee Members

Jason Ward
Cushing
LD 1259

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A Maine Law Enforcement relationship with ICE, on any terms will break the community covenant at the town and neighborhood level and make cops jobs harder. I call on all fellow Maine Republicans to support these bills. Enough is enough, let's start acting in the best interests of Maine's Economy, Workforce and Communities. Thank you Chair and Committee Members