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I am writing as a concerned resident of Maine to express deep alarm at the recent deployment and conduct of ICE agents in Minnesota and other communities across our country. What is happening there is not “law enforcement”; it is a militarized operation that has terrorized residents, disrupted daily life, and cost innocent lives. It is precisely the kind of behavior Maine does not need.

Recent events in Minneapolis have demonstrated how ICE agents have escalated fear and trauma among ordinary citizens. On January 7, 2026, an ICE officer fatally shot 37-year-old Renee Good, a U.S. citizen and mother of three, during a federal operation in a residential neighborhood in south Minneapolis. Video and eyewitness accounts show the officer firing multiple rounds at point-blank range into Ms. Good’s vehicle as she attempted to leave a chaotic scene, calling her a “fucking bitch” as he did so. Her death has sparked outrage across the state and country, not only for the loss of life but because federal officials have framed the shooting as justified and have not pursued accountability in a transparent way. [OBJ]

In the days following this killing, Minnesota schools (both in the urban core and surrounding areas) were forced to shift to remote learning due to safety concerns as hundreds of ICE agents engaged in aggressive tactics, waited around school campuses, and massed on streets where children live and play. [OBJ]

During protests over these disgusting acts, a family with six children, including a 6-month-old infant, had to be hospitalized after ICE agents deployed flash-bang devices and military-grade tear gas in their vehicle while they were trying to drive home. According to medical responders, the INFANT stopped breathing from exposure and required resuscitation. [OBJ]

Across these confrontations, agents have been observed detaining residents, deploying chemical agents and riot tactics against protesters, and generally escalating situations that would be better resolved through community policing and de-escalation. A federal judge has even had to limit the authority of federal agents at protests because of unreasonable stops and detentions without clear cause, and multiple instances caught on video of agents pulling their guns on citizens who were simply exercising their right to protest.

There is no logical justification for replicating these strategies here in Maine. According to the latest estimates, Maine is ranked near the bottom in terms of illegal immigration numbers among U.S. states, with significantly lower figures than most. Deploying heavily armed immigration agents to Maine would only spread fear and chaos, and undermine our hardworking communities — particularly immigrant families and working residents who abide by the law and contribute to our state.

Moreover, the idea that individuals can obtain a firearm, wear a mask, shoot at U.S. citizens in vehicles, and claim “absolute immunity” while federal and local governments investigate the victim — rather than the shooter — is an affront to justice and to Maine’s values. It is unconscionable that, in many professions including nail technician, massage therapist, pet groomer, and even school bus driver, there are licensing and training requirements longer than those in place for ICE officers before they are deployed to engage with civilian populations.

I urge the Maine state government to:

1. Formally oppose any deployment of federal ICE agents or similar militarized immigration enforcement operations in Maine.
2. Pass a resolution supporting civil liberties and the right of communities to live without fear of federal intimidation or violent escalation.
3. Encourage Congress and Maine’s congressional delegation to enact meaningful oversight and accountability of federal immigration enforcement practices.
4. Support policies that protect immigrant communities’ safety and due process.

Maine's government has the responsibility to stand for the safety and dignity of all residents. We do not need a replication of the trauma and violence unfolding in Minnesota. We need leadership that prioritizes justice, transparency, and human rights.