

February 9, 2026

Dear Senator Carney, Representative Kuhn and Honorable Members of the Judiciary Committee:

I am writing to offer my support for LD 2176. As we are reading endless stories of everyday people having their basic constitutional and civil rights violated by ICE or those impersonating ICE, we need new strategies to ensure there is accountability. We do have the funds to offer support for attorney fees and other costs related to ensuring we all have access to equality under the law and this is a much better use of rainy day funds than individual rebates – all of our freedoms are deeply jeopardized when we do not know if we will be targeted by a version of “secret police” without due process or recourse.

Under the 1st Amendment I have the right to speak, to assemble and to presume the Press has freedom to report the facts. However, in practice we are seeing our Government issue threats, violence and even the murdering of those engaging in basic observing and protest. [ICE watchers in Maine say they were threatened by federal agents](#); [Press freedom groups denounce arrests of two journalists including](#); [Shooting deaths climb in Trump's mass deportation effort](#)

Under the 4th Amendment I have the right to be protected from unlawful searches, however I do not know how I would *actually* keep armed and terrifying men from entering my home. In practicality, how do I, a middle aged woman with creaky shoulders enact my rights? ([A U.S. citizen says ICE forced open the door to his Minnesota home and removed him in his underwear after a warrantless search](#); [Maine ICE observer reports agent intimidation at their home](#))

Under the 14th Amendment I am entitled to equal protection under the law. However, it appears anyone of us can be detained without any due process which violates our most basic sense of freedom. [Minnesota citizens detained by ICE are left rattled](#); [Defending Due Process in the Face of ICE in Maine](#); [Maine shaken by ICE raids](#)

LD 2176 takes a step to provide some remedies if we are unlawfully detained or mistreated. We simply cannot have endless immunity for illegal behaviors by our Federal Government or individuals pretending to be ICE agents or Border Patrol if we value our shared freedoms.

Thank you,
Kimberly Simmons, PhD