



Permanent Commission RACIAL, INDIGENOUS & TRIBAL POPULATIONS

Testimony in Support of LD 2176

An Act to Create a Right to Judicial Review Under the Maine Civil Rights Act for Persons Erroneously Detained

February 10, 2026

Senator Carney, Representative Kuhn and members of the Joint Standing Committee on Judiciary, my name is Sam Zuckerman. I am the Policy Coordinator of the Permanent Commission on the Status of Racial, Indigenous, and Tribal Populations. I am submitting this testimony on behalf of the Permanent Commission's Policy Committee to testify in support of LD 2176, "An Act to Create a Right to Judicial Review Under the Maine Civil Rights Act for Persons Erroneously Detained."

Nobody should live in fear while going about their day-to-day life. But fear is now a reality for many communities in Maine. New Mainers and Mainers of color are living under constant threat of abduction by ICE agents who have been targeting schools, healthcare facilities, libraries, childcare facilities, and other locations where Mainers access essential resources and services.¹ They are abducting and disappearing our neighbors without warrants and without regard to the constitutional right against unreasonable searches and seizures.² And they are obstructing access to counsel throughout the country.³ On top of the fear and anxiety caused by all of this, nobody who has been wrongfully detained by our federal government should have to also worry about how to pay for legal representation. This bill will not solve the overall problem of ICE raids happening across the state, but it will provide

¹ <https://www.pressherald.com/2026/01/21/mother-of-4-detained-in-portland-as-immigration-enforcement-ramps-up-in-maine/>;
<https://truthout.org/articles/minneapolis-health-care-workers-are-organizing-to-defend-their-patients-from-ice/>;
<https://www.oregonlive.com/portland/2026/01/ice-detains-family-seeking-emergency-care-for-child-at-portland-hospital.html>;
<https://www.nbcwashington.com/news/local/trumps-crackdown-on-immigration-is-taking-a-toll-on-child-care-workers/4026524/>

² <https://wgme.com/news/local/maine-attorneys-claim-ices-warrantless-home-entries-violate-constitutional-rights>;
<https://apnews.com/video/ice-raid-on-minneapolis-home-blatant-constitutional-violation-attorney-says-2340a4faaceb4f8a9370001a2df64514>; <https://www.yahoo.com/news/articles/minnesota-raises-unprecedented-constitutional-issues-230412807.html>

³ <https://apnews.com/article/trump-ice-lawsuit-immigration-lawyers-detention-402a5cf3b2043e5f2d2868a5e9e8adda>;
<https://www.1011now.com/2026/02/05/aclu-sues-behalf-mccook-ice-detainees-criticizes-attorney-client-access/>

resources to Mainers who have been wrongfully detained but who do not have the resources to pay for an attorney to represent them.

This bill will benefit communities of color in Maine because, on top of facing racial profiling by federal agencies,⁴ Mainers of color also experience a wealth gap when compared to white Mainers. As of 2024, 26.1% of Black Mainers live below the poverty line, as do 19.3% of Indigenous people in Maine, while only 10.3% of white Mainers do.⁵ This means that when Mainers of color need legal assistance to fight back against unconstitutional detentions or arrests or even just to ensure that they are adequately represented in court, they are less likely to have the resources to pay a lawyer out of their own pocket.

We urge you to vote in support of this bill to ensure that all Mainers are properly represented when their constitutional rights have been violated. Thank you for your attention.

⁴ <https://www.bangordailynews.com/2026/01/23/politics/state-politics/maine-state-bar-association-ice-constitutionality/>; www.newscentermaine.com/article/news/nation-world/ice-agents-rationally-profiling-citizens-off-duty-police-officers-minnesota/507-6ab4ec75-b7e3-489b-a2f4-f39f3d7fec30

⁵ Maine Department of Administrative and Financial Services, State Economist. Socioeconomic Data by Race, Ethnicity, and Total Population (2024). <https://www.maine.gov/dafs/economist/Dashboards/SocioeconomicDataByRaceEthnicityandTotalPopulation>