

May 7, 2025

I write to support the passage of LD 1259 (prohibiting state and local police contracts to perform ICE responsibilities) because I value Maine's immigrants and want them to feel safe here. They are the rejuvenation of Maine's population bringing valuable cultural and economic resources with them. I do not want to see my/our local police participating in the abusive and illegal deportation campaign that ICE is carrying out.

I speak to you as a person of the UU faith tradition, which is centered on love and creating a diverse, multicultural community where all feel welcome and can thrive. You are no doubt hearing from many white religious people showing up to advocate on behalf of immigrant issues. That is because they have the advantage of being able to do so without any fear that they are being watched or their names taken down to be checked in immigration enforcement data bases.

Please remember that much of what is going on now called "immigration enforcement" is in fact reckless, lawless, and inhumane. How many people are we content to watch losing their rights and being deported to overseas incarceration or back to places where death is awaiting them, before we stand up for the principles of true democracy?

We pay our taxes to ensure our local police forces enforce the law, the actual law. Not to participate in ICE sweeps. Please support LD 1259.

Thank you,

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