



Stacy Brenner
Senator, District 30

THE MAINE SENATE
132nd Legislature

3 State House Station
Augusta, Maine 04333

Testimony of Senator Stacy Brenner in support of
**LD 1259, “An Act to Enhance Public Safety in Maine by Defining the
Relationship Between Local and Federal Law Enforcement” and LD 1971,
“An Act to Protect Workers in This State by Clarifying the Relationship of
state and Local Law Enforcement Agencies with Federal Immigration
Authorities”**

Before the Joint Standing Committee on Judiciary

May 19, 2025

Senator Carney, Representative Kuhn, and members of the Judiciary Committee. My name is Senator Stacy Brenner, and I represent Senate District 30, which includes all of Gorham and much of Scarborough. I am before you today to testify in support of LD 1259, “*An Act to Enhance Public Safety in Maine by Defining the Relationship Between Local and Federal Law Enforcement*” as well as LD 1971, “*An Act to Protect Workers in This State by Clarifying the Relationship of State and Local Law Enforcement Agencies with Federal Immigration Authorities*”.

From the Southern Border to Maine, it is both possible and necessary to welcome people with dignity. This legislation seeks to clarify the roles and responsibilities of local and federal law enforcement agencies operating within our state, ensuring cooperation is clear, accountable and aligned with Maine’s commitment to civil liberties and community safety. 287(g) agreements are not conducive to our communities and do more harm than good regardless of their intentions.

At its core, this bill is about ensuring transparency and accountability. The Immigration and Customs Enforcement Agency (ICE) has a history of violating human rights. From 2010-2016, 33,000 complaints have been filed against ICE in regards to harassment and sexual assault.¹ By allowing ICE and federal agencies to enter into partnerships with local law enforcement in Maine, we are complicit in the egregious violations that occur and invite these practices in our state. Furthermore, participation with ICE and federal authorities in a 287(g) agreement exposes towns and local law enforcement to potential liability for civil rights violations.

Agreements that encourage local officers to act as deportation agents isolate and alienate immigrant community members who can actually help keep their communities safe. Many of the immigrants and New Americans that settle in Maine often come seeking asylum or are refugees seeking a better path for themselves and their families. The last thing they should feel is a lack of trust in the institutions that should be supporting them and providing public order and safety. Rather than targeting immigrants and undocumented individuals we must focus our resources on

¹ <https://theintercept.com/2018/06/26/immigration-detention-center-abuse-ice/>



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improving the immigration court system to make it efficient and expedite the time from arrival and processing. Many new arrivals to this country wait months and years on end for a court hearing to begin their immigration processing. Keep in mind that justice delayed is justice denied. I believe with LD 1259 and LD 1971 we have the opportunity to turn the page and to strengthen public safety and community trust and to create a welcoming environment for all Mainers.

Thank you for your consideration, I urge you to vote Ought to Pass on LD 1259 and LD 1971.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Stacy Brenner".

Senator Stacy Brenner