

Good afternoon, Senator Carney, Representative Kuhn and honorable members of the Judiciary Committee.

My name is Patricia Corkins, I live in Pembroke, since 2013 and I am here to testify in favor of LD1259 and LD 1971

I am a retired First Sgt with the US Army. 85% of my career was in the National Guard, in Phoenix, AZ – a city well known for its variety of cultures and ethnicity. I worked with many people of color. Electricians, mechanics, pilots, crew chiefs, supply clerks, admin. – from PV1 to Major General and all them indistinguishable from their white counterparts in professionalism, skill and humanity. My doctor was from Columbia, my favorite bodega was owned by Syrians .

I lived in a diverse neighborhood and my children's friends were a rainbow.

People, in my neighborhood, in my life. And now, unbelievably, they are in danger.

As a country, we seem to have lost our mind. We are slipping at a terrifying rate into a police state. Many states appear to be in a race to fill their jails with prisoners. And those prisoners are almost entirely brown. Brown with a tattoo, brown with an accent, brown without papers, brown with a hijab. Many are being held without charges, without warrants, without phone calls or bail. Some are being sent to jails outside of their resident state, separated from family and support without legal council or due process simply because they were 'suspected' of committing a crime.

These crimes, committed by law enforcement, are compounded in joint forces. The whole is greater than the sum of its parts as officers and agents use whichever rules and procedures suit their aims. They awaken and encourage the most base parts of their personalities and goad each other to commit acts of cruelty as proof of toughness or power.

Fear paralyzes good people who don't dare to open a door or answer a phone; let alone walk to work or send their kids to school. This is not the way to live in the Land of the Free.

Maine is becoming known nationally as a State with moral strength, reasoning and courage. Let's show them our Moxie!

I sincerely hope that you will pass both LD1259 and LD1971. Do you have any questions for me?

I thank you for your time