

**Testimony in support of
LD 1259: An Act to Enhance Public Safety in Maine by Defining the
Relationship Between Local and Federal Law Enforcement**

Thank you, Senator Carney, Representative Kuhn, and members of Judiciary Committee for your hard work serving on this committee.

My name is Bonnie Wood, Brunswick, Maine.

I am here to strongly support LD 1259.

Because of my lifelong concerns about social justice and my deep respect for all human beings---both of which are affirmed by my religious faith---I would have been supportive of this proposed legislation in any case. But the volunteer work I have been doing for the past year and a half has put a human face on my unease about public safety in this country.

Since the autumn of 2023, I have volunteered as an English literacy tutor for Midcoast Literacy in Bath. I currently do "workplace tutoring" for three African immigrants who work at Coastal Landing/Coastal Shores in Brunswick. All three of these women are here legally, have work permits, and support themselves and their families. Although they are smart, highly motivated people who were educated in their home countries, they are willing to do the kind of necessary work that many U.S. citizens find distasteful.

They work in the kitchen and the laundry at Coastal Landing Retirement Community / Coastal Shores Assisted Living in Brunswick. Their jobs are so important that their workplace pays them their regular salary to spend time with me improving their English language skills. And there are other businesses in Brunswick and around the state who do the same thing.

I have gotten to know these wonderful women and their families. They are generous, honest, caring people---the kind of people we wish everyone in our communities would be. They are vital contributors to our economy, and they deserve to feel protected by local and state law enforcement. They do not deserve to live in fear on top of their already complicated lives.

Thank you.