

Good afternoon, Senator Carney, Representative Kuhn, and honorable members of the Judiciary Committee. My name is Jennifer Temple. I live in Lincolnville and am here today with my family to testify in favor of LD 1259.

One of my daughters looks nothing like me; while I am white, she is brown. When we travel, I carry photocopies of our passports and her birth certificate with my name on it. These documents are safety measures in case we are separated or if an accident occurs. Until now, I have never done this out of fear.

I keep learning that people, brown people like my daughter, have been disappearing, this terrifies me. We now carry her citizenship papers whenever we leave home. Trusted friends have copies. Electronic versions are stored on our phones and computers. This is no way for a 19 year old to enter adulthood. This is no way for a family to live.

Deputizing local police to carry out federal immigration enforcement turns every routine encounter into a potential deportation risk. Despite the rhetoric, the 287(g) program overwhelmingly impacts people with no criminal history. Any cooperation with ICE for the sake of mass deportation will increase racial profiling of Latino, Black and indigenous community members. It will not make Mainers any safer, in fact the opposite will occur. The politics of fear quickly becomes real fear when you realize your child could be driving home from her summer job, going a few miles over the speed limit, and instead of getting her first speeding ticket, she could wind up being detained, just because she doesn't look like she was born here. It breaks my heart that this is our reality.

I support this bill because now is the time for the government of Maine to stand up for and behind the people of Maine - all people of Maine, not just the white ones.

I urge you to vote in favor of LD 1259. Thank you for your time. I'm happy to answer any questions that you have.