

Good afternoon, Senator Carney, Representative Kuhn and honorable members of the Judiciary Committee. My name is Talia Cullum, I live in Old Town, and I am here to testify in favor of LD 1259.

As a student at the University of Maine I have met many international students who are here legally, fear the federal administration and rightfully so. We've seen ICE and a slew of other federal agencies continue to break constitutional law which applies to everyone on US soil regardless of immigration status. The University administration continues to tell us that if we are contacted by ICE officers we should call the University Police department. How could I suggest this to my peers? After seeing the 287(g) agreement that Wells Police department signed, there has been a noticeable drop in the trust for the police around campus. Especially in light of the fact that we have seen the specific targeting of international students on campuses across the country.

LD1259 begins a process which builds that trust back. If international students on campus know that the police department can't partner with ICE, they'll be more likely to call in the scenario that the University recommends. This bill begins to build trust in Maine police more generally as the federal administration proves itself more and more untrustworthy.

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