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Waterville, ME  
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**My Testimony**  
*LD 1259, LD 1971*

Good afternoon Senator Carney, Representative Kuhn, and members of the Judiciary Committee. My name is Jackie Ferlito, I live in Waterville, and I am here to testify in favor of LD 1259 and LD 1971.

ICE has no place in a just and democratic society. They are an organization dedicated to the racial and political targeting of immigrants who are simply seeking a better life for themselves. ICE quite literally disappears people off the streets, separates families, and jails them in concentration camps. This is something that has no place in Maine and especially not in our local law enforcement departments.

The Independent Commission to Investigate the Facts of the Tragedy in Lewsiton established that the police failed to notice the warning signs that led to the massacre. Police don't actually stop crimes. More often than not they create fear in the public they are charged to protect. I have firsthand experience with this. I was harrassed last year by two cops for hours for simply participating in Maine's Big Night. As a visibly trans person I was terrified by their actions, especially so late at night and so isolated of a location. I feared for my safety.

By not passing these bills public distrust in local law enforcement would increase. Not just for our immigrant populations, but amongst our marginalized communities, and even the broader public. There are multiple incidents of ICE arresting and detaining lawful U.S citizens based purely on suspicion. This isn't even to mention the case of Kilmar Abrego Garcia who was deported without due process. If the public can't go to the cops in times of emergency without fear of deportation they are less likely to report abuse, violence, unsafe working conditions, and so much more.

Without taking a stand now Maine will be complicit in assisting the broader United States on a path towards fascism. There is a reason Maine's motto is Dirigo. Let's pave a new path towards a just society in this time of uncertainty and fear. I urge you to vote in favor of these bills before you. Thank you for your time.