



COALITION ON RACIAL EQUITY

5/19/25

RE: LD 1259

Dear Senator Carney, Representative Kuhn, and Honorable Members of the Judiciary Committee,

The Coalition on Racial Equity (CORE) would like to add our voices to the many that have urged you to vote ought to pass on LD 1259.

CORE actively pursues racial equity and justice by dismantling structural inequities and disparities. We aspire to a world where influential decision-makers actively collaborate with affected people and communities, fostering a collective effort to dismantle oppressive laws, policies, and practices for a more equitable and just society.

287(g) agreements undermine public safety by decreasing trust in local law enforcement especially among immigrant communities. These agreements divert resources away from other state and local police responsibilities and add a significant risk to local towns of being caught up in costly lawsuits.

Research has shown that racial profiling, and other civil rights violations were widespread among the state and local law enforcement agencies ICE described as participants in the 287(g) program as of April 2022.¹ All people in Maine need to be supported in seeking safety. Law enforcement must develop the trust of their community members. Due to the growing number of incidents in which asylum seekers and immigrants are detained by federal agencies, many people in Maine's immigrant communities are already fearful. Immigrants in Maine are woven into the fabric of our communities. They do hard jobs, start businesses, pay taxes and attend school. If a local law enforcement department enters into a 287(g) agreement and has resource officers in the local schools, will immigrant parents feel safe sending their children to school? Will the immigrant business owner feel safe to report a robbery? Will the student visa holder feel safe reporting her harassment or, worse yet, sexual assault?

Without LD 1259 Maine could end up a patchwork of towns with varied local law enforcement duties. The risk of civil rights violations occurring under the current protocols of the 287(g) program are so great that the legislature should step in to protect Maine's people and towns. The legislature should ensure that Maine remains a welcoming state where asylum seekers looking to build roots in our communities feel safe and supported.

We urge you to vote ought to pass on LD 1259.

¹ **License to Abuse: How ICE's 287(g) Program Empowers Racist Sheriffs**
Document Date: April 26, 2022

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COALITION ON RACIAL EQUITY

CORE members include:

ACLU Maine
Defend Our Health
Democracy Maine
Maine Equal Justice
Maine Organic Farmers and
Gardeners Association
Maine People's Alliance
Maine Center for Economic
Policy
Maine Women's Lobby
Planned Parenthood of
Northern New England
NAACP
Maine Youth for Climate
Justice
Maine Conservation Voters
Maine Youth Power

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PLANNED PARENTHOOD

OF NORTHERN NEW ENGLAND

NAACP

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MAINE CONSERVATION VOTERS

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COALITION ON RACIAL EQUITY

5/19/25

RE: LD 1971

Dear Senator Carney, Representative Kuhn, and Honorable Members of the Judiciary Committee,

The Coalition on Racial Equity (CORE) would like to add our voices to the many that have urged you to vote ought to pass on LD 1971.

CORE actively pursues racial equity and justice by dismantling structural inequities and disparities. We aspire to a world where influential decision-makers actively collaborate with affected people and communities, fostering a collective effort to dismantle oppressive laws, policies, and practices for a more equitable and just society.

LD 1971 provides clear boundaries that prevent local and state resources from being entangled in federal operations and helps ensure that Maine's agencies serve all residents. Everyone in Maine deserves support in pursuing safety, health, and education. To make that possible, law enforcement, health care facilities, and schools must be places people can access without fear of retaliation.

LD 1971 prohibits state employees, other than law enforcement officers, from inquiring into immigration status unless the inquiry is required by law or necessary to provide a service. State employees should not be in a position to hold this information unless it is required for providing a service. The increased violent rhetoric and harmful actions being taken against asylum seekers, green card holders and those going through the citizenship process have created fear among Maine's vibrant immigrant communities. It's crucial that, when in need, families are able to access programs without worrying that they may be asked about their immigration status in their routine contact with a state employee.

The legislature should ensure that Maine remains a welcoming state where asylum seekers looking to build roots in our communities feel safe and supported. LD 1971 gives communities the stability they need to keep working, learning, and contributing to a stronger Maine.

We urge you to vote ought to pass on LD 1971.

CORE members include:

ACLU Maine
Defend Our Health
Democracy Maine
Maine Equal Justice
Maine Organic Farmers and Gardeners
Association
Maine People's Alliance
Maine Center for Economic Policy
Maine Women's Lobby

Planned Parenthood of Northern New England
NAACP
Maine Youth for Climate Justice
Maine Conservation Voters
Maine Youth Power



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