

5/19/25

Re: 1259

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

My name is Beth Allen. I am a resident of Wells Maine. My lovely seaside community is currently the only town in Maine that has signed a 287g agreement. In my town, the decision to expand the duties of our local officers to include federal immigration enforcement was made by a single person without oversight from any elected officials or opportunities for public comment. It's unclear if this agreement was even reviewed by a town lawyer.

The 287g program is not good for Maine towns. The 287g program is like a vacation timeshare pitch; Join us for a free training, but we don't know the actual financial costs to your town and we won't offer you ongoing support. The agreement signed by Wells does not include information about any ongoing support or guidance that will be offered to the department beyond an initial self guided online training. Simply by completing an online training local officers are deputized to complete the duties of federal officials. The costs of officers' time to complete these duties could easily exceed the town approved budget. We continue to see numerous lawsuits due to the actions taken under the direction of the current administration. A lawsuit would be financially devastating to our town.

Wells will be less safe as a result of this agreement. Trusted local law enforcement officers are now seen as connected to the growing number of terrifying incidents occurring to immigrant families. Maine's town law enforcement members including those in Wells often live in the communities they serve. They work as football coaches, volunteer for special olympics and can often be seen in the dunk tank at local summer festivals. These trusted community members who have taken on a large responsibility to serve and protect their communities should not be placed in a risky situation of enforcing federal immigration policies with little training and lack of guidance. When the school resource officer of my town reports to Wells Junior High School I want to know that she is focused on keeping my kid safe, not interrogating immigrant families in the drop off line. This summer I want to know that my local officers are on the street monitoring for drunk drivers as they leave restaurants, not completing raids on these restaurants to check the visas of every worker.

LD 1259 helps protect Maine, protecting towns and communities. I urge you to vote ought to pass on LD 1259. Thank you.

Beth Allen

Wells Maine