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THE MAINE SENATE
132nd Legislature

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Testimony in Support of LD 1259

“An Act to Enhance Public Safety in Maine by Defining the Relationship Between Local and Federal Law Enforcement”

Presented to the Joint Standing Committee on Judiciary

May 19, 2025

Good afternoon Senator Carney, Representative Kuhn, and distinguished members of the Joint Standing Committee on Judiciary. My name is Peggy Rotundo, and I have the privilege of representing the City of Lewiston in Senate District 21. I am here today to testify in favor of LD 1259, “An Act to Enhance Public Safety in Maine by Defining the Relationship Between Local and Federal Law Enforcement.”

The United States Constitution guarantees due process and equal protection to everyone within the United States – including immigrants. If we begin carving out groups who no longer enjoy this protection, we are all at risk, for we might be part of the next group that is carved out.

Law enforcement in Maine is already stretched thin. I know this because I see the requests year after year in the proposed state budgets for more state police positions. I see the bills that end up on the Appropriations table, which ask for more staff for rural patrols and for greater funding to municipalities to pay for services, including the police. We should not be asking local law enforcement to be doing more when they are already stretched thin. ICE is funded well by the federal government. Local property tax payers and the State should not have to take on the additional financial burden by doing ICE’s job, particularly now as federal dollars to the state and local communities are diminishing.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I’m happy to answer any questions from the committee.