

February 10, 2026

Joint Judiciary Committee Susan Kiralis, Resident of Vassalboro, Maine. Testimony in support of Ensuring Due Process for All. My deep concern regarding the treatment of individuals detained by the criminal justice system, the urgent need to ensure that due process rights are upheld for everyone here, regardless of their immigration status it's a fundamental protections guaranteed by the Constitution, including: The right to a fair trial, Access to legal counsel, The presumption of innocence until proven guilty.

It is unacceptable that many individuals detained by the criminal justice system are denied meaningful access to courts and legal representation. The barriers are extremely difficult to navigate and costly. This is a violation of principles.

We have a moral and legal obligation to protect the rights of all individuals in our communities. Denying due process causes human harm. I urge the Joint Judiciary Committee to take action to ensure that:

1. Every person detained by immigration authorities has access to competent legal counsel.
2. Individuals receive timely notice of charges and hearings.
3. Detention conditions meet standards of human dignity and safety.
4. Judicial review and appeals are meaningful and accessible.

Maine can lead by example, showing that justice and constitutional rights are non-negotiable. Victims of this system can also file for compensation and seek legal aid. Thank you for your time and attention to this critical issue.