



February 10th, 2026

Testimony in support of LD2176: An Act to Create a Right to Judicial Review Under the Maine Civil Rights Act for Persons Erroneously Detained.

Good afternoon Senator Carney, Representative Kuhn, and esteemed members of the Judiciary Committee.

My name is Eli Durand-McDonnell, I am from Bar Harbor, and I work as the Policy Director at Maine Youth Power, a youth-led youth movement working throughout rural and suburban Maine to win human dignity, equity and a liveable future for all. Today, I am testifying on behalf of my organization in support of LD2176: An Act to Create a Right to Judicial Review Under the Maine Civil Rights Act for Persons Erroneously Detained.

In my position at Maine Youth Power, I have the pleasure of speaking with young people from all across the state. I've been to dusty fairs, mosquito-filled summer camps, and bustling colleges and universities, talking with young people about the change they want to see in our state. Naturally, the goals of the youth change with their communities and settings. For some, they are concerned about a rapidly shifting lobster industry, and how they will continue their family's tradition of working on the water. For others, they are focused on affordable housing and how to stay in Maine long term.

However, these days, I'm hearing from a lot of youth about the same issue: fear of ICE's violent immigration crackdown, and the seemingly complete immunity with which they operate. In the midst of fear and sudden abductions, we need to see that our leaders are doing what they can to protect Maine residents, and protect our civil liberties. Not just today, but for generations to come. LD2176 would create some of those protections. Those detained unlawfully would be given an actual avenue to recover damages, including attorney fees, and Maine residents that have been caught in the detention spree of ICE would have better access to legal representation. These measures would make a crucial difference for those that have been caught up in the unpredictable and reckless law enforcement that has descended upon our state. I urge you to improve accountability in Maine and vote to support LD2176: An Act to Create a Right to Judicial Review Under the Maine Civil Rights Act for Persons Erroneously Detained.

Sincerely,  
Eli Durand-McDonnell