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## *Testimony of Representative Holly Eaton in Opposition of*

### **LD 1656: An Act to Facilitate Compliance with Federal Immigration Law by State and Local Government Entities *To the Judiciary Committee***

Senator Carney, Representative Kuhn, and members of the Judiciary Committee, my name is Representative Holly Eaton, and I proudly represent House District 15, which includes the communities of Deer Isle, Stonington, Brooklin, Tremont, Southwest Harbor, Frenchboro, Swan's Island, Isle au Haut, and Vinalhaven. I'm submitting this testimony in strong opposition to LD 1656, "An Act to Facilitate Compliance with Federal Immigration Law by State and Local Government Entities."

As the representative for one of Maine's most coastal and community-driven districts, I hear regularly from people who care deeply about fairness, decency, and the Maine way of treating one another—with respect, regardless of where someone comes from. I was recently contacted directly by a member of my local Democratic committee who was alarmed by this bill and asked for my perspective. Their concern reflects what I've heard from others in my district as well—this is not how Mainers treat each other.

LD 1656 would require municipalities to cooperate with federal immigration enforcement, even when local officials believe doing so would violate their values or compromise community safety. This strips control from local governments and places it in the hands of a federal agency with a troubling record of due process violations and aggressive enforcement practices that have hurt immigrant families across the country—including here in Maine.

We should be doing everything we can to foster trust between residents and local law enforcement. Forcing compliance with ICE undermines that trust, diverts local resources, and sows fear in our communities. Local police should not be federal immigration agents—and our towns and cities should not be compelled to act against their own best judgment.

I urge you to reject this bill and stand firmly for Maine values: fairness, local control, and the dignity of every person who calls our state home.

District 15: Brooklin, Deer Isle, Eagle Island Township, Frenchboro, Southwest Harbor, Stonington, Swan's Island, Tremont, Isle au Haut, Vinalhaven