

TO: The Honorable  
The Honorable  
Members of the Joint Judiciary Committee

DATE: April 25, 2025

RE: LD 1656 An Act to Facilitate Compliance with Federal Immigration Law by  
State and Local Government Entities

My name is Dawn Walls. I am from Unity. I am writing this testimony to inform the committee members that I am strongly Opposed to this bill, for the following reasons:

This bill will not do what its proponents say it will. It will not make our communities safer. It will detract from local law enforcement's obligations and resources to do their job of local law enforcement, and instead ask them to do the work of immigration enforcement. Immigration enforcement is not the job of local law enforcement.

It has been prior common practice to keep local law enforcement separate from federal law enforcement, and for good reasons. Tasking local law enforcement in this capacity will not only over tax current resources, but it will have a chilling effect on the confidence of citizens to report crimes. This will not make anyone safer, except perhaps the criminals.

We are already seeing examples of the kinds of outrageous behaviors and treatments ICE officers are subjecting people to— people who are here legally, who have not committed any crime. People are being stripped of their legal status, without notice, without cause, and without due process. People are being called criminals for exercising their Constitutionally protected rights to free speech and peaceful protest.

Make no mistake, this bill, and all others like it, are not about immigration law. It is about the weaponization of immigration law to chill free expression. Allowing this bill to proceed will be the definitive step toward a police state. It will further erode civil protections. It will extend the reach and power for those same outrageous, violent, and illicit ICE tactics to be used anywhere, against anyone, and inevitably make any citizen, therefore all citizens, subject to the same kinds of dangers.

I therefore *strongly* urge the committee vote "Ought Not To Pass" on this bill. I thank the committee for your time and attention to my testimony.