

Good Afternoon,

Senator Carney, Representative Kuhn and honorable members of the Judiciary Committee. My name is Camden Ador, I live in Bangor, and I am writing to testify in favor of LD 1971

I am a theologian and graduate of Vanderbilt Divinity School. We, at VDS, call ourselves scholars, prophets, and activists because our faith compels us to stand in solidarity with the marginalized and oppressed. At this moment, that means standing with immigrant communities who face the constant threat of deportation, family separation, and the erosion of their dignity. This bill is an act of resistance to the powers that seek to dehumanize the most vulnerable among us, and a call to reorient our law enforcement practices toward the values of mercy, justice, and compassion.

In the tradition of liberation theology, which compels us to reject systems of oppression and to act in solidarity with the poor and the oppressed, this bill offers a prophetic challenge to the status quo. It insists that our communities cannot be built on fear or exclusion but must instead reflect the inclusive love and justice that the sacred calls us to embody.

By limiting collaboration with federal immigration authorities, this bill affirms that justice cannot be divorced from mercy, and that any system that perpetuates fear, discrimination, and division is a violation of the very principles of human dignity that are at the heart of a just society. It calls us to a deeper understanding of justice; one that does not merely punish but seeks restoration and reconciliation. It challenges us to resist the structures that perpetuate harm, to embrace the transformative power of solidarity, and to build communities where every person, regardless of their immigration status, can live in freedom and safety.

In doing so, we uphold a vision that affirms the worth of every individual, seeks to tear down the walls that divide us, and calls us to work for a world where the love of thy neighbor is made manifest in the policies and practices that govern our society.

This isn't just a political issue; it is a moral imperative rooted deeply in the teachings of justice, compassion, and human dignity. I urge you to vote in favor of LD 1971. Thank you for your time, I'm happy to answer any questions that you have.

Be Well,  
Camden Ador

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Bangor  
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