

May 19th, 2025

To: Joint Standing Committee on Judiciary

Chairs: Senator Anne Carney and Representative Amy Kuhn

RE: Testimony in Support of LD 1971, HP1315 An Act to Protect Workers in This State by Clarifying the Relationship of State and Local Law Enforcement Agencies with Federal Immigration Authorities.

Senator Carney and Representative Kuhn and distinguished members of the Joint Standing Committee on Judiciary,

I urge you to vote “Ought to Pass” on L.D. 1971.

LD 1971 would clarify the relationship between local and Federal immigration enforcement agencies.

Every resident of this state is at risk of Federal immigration officers violating basic civil rights by removing them from their homes and places of work without any evidence of an immigration law violation. The current Federal administration has maintained in court that immigration enforcement agencies do not need to follow United States laws or Constitution nor provide anyone detained with any due process rights and that they can ignore court orders. An agency this reckless and lawless places us all in danger.

I’m a child of immigrants (17th century). If I walk down the street wearing a Chicago Bulls baseball cap or a pretty tattoo and based on no other information, I can be detained, imprisoned, and transferred to prison outside of the US without any judicial review and without any evidence that I am in this country in violation of America’s civil immigration laws. Then the Federal Government can detain anyone for any reason, imprison them without trial or judicial action in violation of every right America has defended for nearly 250 years. Maine and its people should oppose this state of affairs with every legal means at their disposal. Passage of LD 1971 would be a good first step.

I therefore urge the committee report LD 1971 out as “Ought to Pass”.

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