

Justine Appel
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LD 1259

Good afternoon, Senator Carney, Representative Kuhn and honorable members of the Judiciary Committee. My name is Justine Appel, I live in Harborside, and I am here to testify in favor of LD 1259.

As a rural elementary school teacher, I know the importance of local law enforcement to support our schools. We typically (if we are lucky) have one officer on hand to support 5 geographically distant schools. They help us with lockdown drills, respond to incidents involving non-custodial parents or school neighbors who may be in crisis, and they often do educational programming or just stop by to advise on safety issues. To add federal law enforcement work to their overloaded plates would be unfair to teachers and students, and not to mention to the communities we (police officers and teachers) mutually serve. Furthermore, to distract from their important work for the sake of a fear-mongering presidential agenda against immigrants (who consist of my students, their families, our friends, and our neighbors) is to severely mischaracterize what Mainers care about and play into fear tactics. Don't fall for it. Please support LD 1259.