

I'm testifying in support of LD 1259, "An Act to Enhance Public Safety in Maine by Defining the Relationship Between Local and Federal Law Enforcement," sponsored by Representative Rana.

I have deep respect for my local police department. They are well-trained, well-equipped, and have built trust in our community. Federal efforts to divert them from their core public safety mission to assist an outside agency like ICE undermines that trust.

I'm concerned that towns or counties entering into agreements with federal immigration authorities may find those agreements expanding—pressuring local officers to take on more responsibility or adopt tactics that conflict with our values. These partnerships could be a Trojan horse, co-opting the functioning and mission of our local law enforcement systems.

We've all seen reports of ICE agents refusing to show identification, refusing to produce warrants, and smashing car windows and leaving kids standing on the street, as happened in Waltham Mass last week. As ICE chooses to escalate its tactics, it doesn't mean our communities should be forced to follow, or be a party to it.

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