

Jane Beers
Belfast
LD 1259

Testimony before the Joint Standing Committee on the Judiciary LD 1259: Enhance Public Safety in Maine by Defining the Relationship Between Local and Federal Law Enforcement on Monday, May 19, 2025.

Senator Carney, Representative Kuhn, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Jane Beers and I am a resident of Belfast. I am testifying in support of LD 1259.

As you are aware, this bill would prohibit state or local law enforcement agencies or officers from entering into contracts with federal immigration enforcement authorities. By passing this into law, the 132nd Legislature would be able to not only save valuable law enforcement time and energy, but support the people who make Maine the great state that it is.

The resources of our local and state law enforcement agencies and officers are best used in enforcing our state and local laws, not in trying to decipher ever-changing federal immigration mandates. Please use this law to free up our law enforcement officials to serve the communities they are asked to protect using tools with which they are familiar and are codified into state and local ordinances.

Law enforcement officers and agencies are tasked with protecting the people of Maine regardless of immigration status. Immigrants play a vital role in our great state and have the same constitutional rights as any person residing in Maine. Our law enforcement agencies can best serve our communities when they are upholding our rights, are trusted by those they serve and act to protect us all from those who would break any laws.