

Sonia Carlson
Brooks
District 38

To the members of the judiciary committee,

I am writing today to testify in favor of both LD 1259 and LD 1971.

In March, following a routine traffic stop, one person here in Waldo County was handed over to ICE by the Waldo County Sheriff's Department. This incident sent ripples of fear and alarm throughout our community. Recently, other similar incidents have happened elsewhere in Maine as well.

Especially in these times, when the federal government is *illegally* denying due process to many US residents in order to carry out its mass deportation agenda, I believe it is critical that we do not allow our local law enforcement to collude in or support these illegal activities that instill fear in Mainers whether they are here legally or not.

It is crucial for our community's safety and health that *everyone* can rely on local law enforcement to protect and defend them, not have to worry that any contact with police might result in ripping apart their family and community due to detainment or deportation (particularly without process). Burdening already stretched departments with this additional duty that is not within their purview does not make any of us safer either; in fact, it does the opposite. Immigrants are valued members of our communities here in Maine, and need and deserve safety just like we all do.

I urge you to vote in favor of LD 1259 and LD 1971. Thank you.