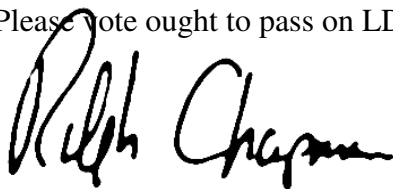


Senator Carney, Representative Kuhn, and other members of the Maine Legislature's Judiciary Committee, my name is Ralph Chapman from Bucksport Maine testifying in favor of both LD 1259 "An Act to Enhance Public Safety in Maine by Defining the Relationship Between Local and Federal Law Enforcement" and LD 1971 "An Act to Protect Workers in This State by Clarifying the Relationship of State and Local Law Enforcement Agencies with Federal Immigration Authorities".

Though often not understood, the oath of office for elected government officials and government officials appointed by elected officials, is not for ceremonial purposes alone; indeed, its primary purpose is to assign responsibility for the maintenance of our constitutional democracy to those officials. This is the reason why failure to accept such responsibility by refusal to swear an oath or make affirmation to support the constitutions of the United States and of Maine renders it illegal for any government official to perform any official act of their office. It is also the reason why all such persons are subject to impeachment and upon the outcome of trial, to be removed from office if they behave contrary to such oath or affirmation.

In light of the illegal behavior of the current federal administration and particularly of its Immigration Customs and Enforcement agency, it is necessary to provide the protections in these two bills. It is the responsibility of you, as elected officials who have taken an oath of office by swearing or affirmation, to counter the unconstitutional behavior of the federal government and its agencies. Failure on your part to do so is, therefore, an impeachable offense.

Please vote ought to pass on LD 1259 and on LD 1971. Thank you.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Ralph Chapman". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large initial "R".