

Nina Earley
Bangor
LD 1259

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Bangor, ME
Monday, 5/19/25
LD 1259 and LD 1971

Honorable Members of the Judiciary Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to submit my testimony. My name is Nina Earley, and I am a resident of Bangor. I am writing today in support of the bills before the committee on Monday, May 19, 2025, specifically LD 1259 and LD 1971.

I'm not an immigrant, because even though I moved to this country when I was 15, I was born abroad as a US citizen. My mother, however, didn't get her US citizenship until nearly 20 years after we moved here. Even though she's an immigrant, and now a naturalized citizen, I'm not concerned that she will get stopped by unidentified ICE agents, because she's white and doesn't have a detectable accent when she speaks English. (If I was giving this testimony in person I would pause here to let you consider the implications of that). While these bills can't stop ICE and border patrol from disappearing Maine residents, it's important to consider the full implications of the actions the federal government has taken, and what we as Mainers can do to protect our people.

Maine resources should be used for Maine communities, and the federal government will not be paying for the time and resources local law enforcement spends when they carry out orders for ICE. All people in Maine need to be supported in seeking safety, health, and educational opportunities, so law enforcement, health care facilities, and schools must remain spaces they can access without fear of retaliation. Failure to maintain basic access would have catastrophic impacts on public safety and public health. When Maine residents have to be afraid they will be handed over to ICE if they have any contact with law enforcement, they don't report crimes, they don't know who to call in an emergency, and they cannot live safe and healthy lives. Please don't let Maine become a place where residents are afraid for their lives.

I strongly believe that immigrants are vital members of our economy and our communities, and that we all have constitutional rights. One such right guarantees due process and equal protection, regardless of immigration status. By disappearing individuals without due process and often without proper identification, this federal government has violated constitutional rights to carry out their mass deportation agenda, and we as a state need to protect all of our people from such harm.

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