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LD 1971

I strongly support LD 1971 and preventing Maine law enforcement agencies—state, county, and local—from collaborating with federal immigration and border patrol authorities.

My hope is that Maine will be a welcoming place for everyone, including immigrants. After all, United States is itself a nation of immigrants. Maine has always had a “live and let live” approach to neighbors and community members, and that ought to extend to migrants.

Our state cannot afford to turn away any workers in the current economy. As I’m sure the Legislature is aware, many entrepreneurs in Maine rely on migrant labor. Seasonal employers are already worried that documented workers will not return to their jobs, as the federal government ramps up its crackdown on immigration. Will our state offer hospitality to the workers that the business community desperately needs? Heightened immigration enforcement sends a chilling message to visiting employees!

If Maine law enforcement cooperates with federal immigration and border patrol agents, it will erode trust in local law enforcement and make communities less safe. Folks who lack proper immigration documentation are less likely to call 911, report crimes, make witness statements, or testify in court. Maine can’t expect open communication and cooperation from the immigrant community if we’re supporting federal “mass deportation” efforts.

The public-relations repercussions of involving Maine law enforcement in federal immigration actions are considerable. After listening to feedback from citizens, Monmouth and Winthrop recently rescinded their joint application to enter into an agreement with ICE. The ongoing controversy surrounding the town of Wells—for their choice to collaborate with ICE—is another case in point. This is not the type of publicity that our State needs.

Thank you for supporting LD 1971, protecting our business community, welcoming new neighbors, and preserving Maine’s national reputation as a great place to live!