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LD 1971

I am writing to express my strong opposition to LD 1971. As a lifelong Maine summer resident and now living in Maine full time, I have witnessed our state evolve from communities where my children and I could freely participate in community life, to a state where public safety is compromised and subverted by legislation such as LD 1971.

I used to feel safe in Maine, visiting stores, restaurants, museums, beaches, medical facilities, churches, or public sites like the post office or town halls, parks, libraries, fairs, parades, and now I realize just how deeply unsafe we are in Maine.

It is impossible to experience security and peaceful enjoyment of these commonplace locations due to the unprecedented radical changes wrought here in Maine by legislation that is foisted upon us without consideration of the United States Constitution and true representation of the will of the citizens of Maine and the United States. Law enforcement officers take an oath to uphold the Constitution as do legislators and this is a sacred oath that must be honored. You cannot legislate ANYTHING that subverts the manner in which state and local LEO's are to collaborate with federal immigration authorities!

Allowing our local law enforcement to fully collaborate with federal immigration authorities is critical. Without this cooperation, it becomes increasingly challenging to identify and remove individuals who may have entered the state through unauthorized channels and who have committed criminal acts.

It is NOT acceptable for those who entered our country outside of legal channels to have more rights and protections than law-abiding tax-paying legal citizens of the United States.

No one can ensure a secure environment for our families if local law enforcement is hindered in its work with immigration officials.

It is crucial that Maine's legislation distinguishes between documented, law-abiding immigrants and those who have entered our state illegally. Strengthening our public safety measures should focus on supporting law enforcement agencies in working with federal immigration authorities to address any threats to our community.

Maine citizens deserve a state where they, their children, and grandchildren can feel secure. By allowing law enforcement to collaborate fully with immigration officers, we can help ensure that safety is maintained for all residents. I urge you to vote against LD 1971 and ANY legislation that restricts this necessary partnership.