

Judith Gove
Camden
LD 1971

Testimony of Judith Gove
Camden, Maine
LD 1259 & LD 1971 – Ought to Pass

LD 1259 – An Act to Enhance Public Safety In Maine by Defining the Relationship
Between Local & Federal Law Enforcement
Joint Standing Committee on Judiciary
May 19, 2025 at 1:00PM

Senator Carney, Representative Kuhn, and distinguished members of the Joint Standing Committee on Judiciary ~ My name is Judith Gove and I am an ordinary citizen, resident and community member of Camden. I would like to voice my support of both LD 1259 and LD 1971 for the following reasons:

1. I support the primary intent of LD 1259, which would make it illegal for any Maine law enforcement agency to enter into a 287 agreement and carry out federal immigration enforcement actions on behalf of ICE.

Our local police are hired and paid by municipalities to protect & serve their communities. They are not hired, trained nor have the staff to engage in federal activities on behalf or with federal ICE agents.

By not entering into 287 agreements with ICE, local law enforcement agencies can continue to focus their time and resources on local, community needs versus diverting strained local resources to immigration enforcement, which is a federal NOT local responsibility.

2. By not entering into 287 agreements, local law enforcement will not be put in positions of detaining people without following due process protections guaranteed by US Constitutions to all “persons” within the United States including undocumented immigrants. As we have seen in recent, numerous cases involving detention of immigrants in other states, due process protections have not been followed and this denial of rights and protections could happen here in Maine, putting our local police departments in jeopardy for violating constitutional rights and at risk for costly lawsuits.

3. Finally, I strongly support LD 1259 and LD1971 as they will go a long way in protecting our local police departments and communities from participating in the traumatic, violent, inhumane and potentially illegal ICE detentions of immigrants living and working in our towns and cities. Many of us have seen the chaotic and violent footage of ICE detainment in Worcester, MA where a family was torn apart. The incident was terrifying, traumatic for the family, the community and local police. It is a scene we absolutely do not want to see unfolding in our Maine communities.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on LD 1259 and LD 1971. Please support these acts to protect and enhance public safety in out towns, cities and rural communities!

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