

**Testimony in support of LD 1971
to the Joint Standing Committee on Judiciary**

May 19, 2025

Senator Carney, Representative Kuhn, and distinguished members of the Joint Standing Committee on Judiciary:

My name is Sarah Johnson and I am a resident of Sanford.

I am writing in support of 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.

The clarifications in this bill will enhance public safety as well as the safety and health of our local law enforcement personnel. These well defined parameters will reduce the stress currently being endured in our communities. The safety and well being of everyone depends on a level of trust that is currently being eroded. People may not report crime or seek the help that they need and deserve because of the uncertainty of immigration policy.

Local law enforcement personnel are not trained to be federal immigration officials. This is an additional stress on our local officials that will impact their health and well being, and so that of our communities as well.

Without these clarifications, businesses will suffer as workers may fear coming to work each day. Employees and business owners will suffer as they witness the stress endured by their fellow co-workers. Our communities will be at risk if people are afraid to seek medical care when needed. Children will not feel safe at school worrying about what may happen to their family at any time.

This bill will help ensure that the constitutional rights of due process that everyone deserves are respected and adhered to.

LD 1971 will help Maine communities be as welcoming and safe as we can collectively make them.

I hope you will vote Ought To Pass on LD 1971.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sarah Johnson

Sanford, Maine