Elizabeth Leonard Waterville LD 1971

I enthusiastically urge lawmakers to support this bill. The recent and terrifying use of often masked, unidentified, supposedly federal ICE agents to capture, kidnap, and imprison (here and abroad) both immigrants and citizens must be stopped, and Maine law enforcement agencies should not cooperate in any way with this travesty. Back in the days of slavery, before the American Civil War, Mainers proudly and courageously stood up for the fugitives from that barbaric institution, and--with other New England states--passed "personal liberty laws" defying the federal government's cruel and inhumane policies towards the bondspeople. We should remember that history now, and do what we can in this terrifying time to channel the courage and compassion of those who came before us. Moreover, as historian Timothy Snyder writes in his essential book, "On Tyranny: Twenty Lessons from the Twentieth Century": "If you carry a weapon in public service, may God bless you and keep you. But know that evils of the past involved policemen and soldiers finding themselves, one day, doing irregular things. Be ready to say no." Let's help our local law enforcement agencies say "no" to the "irregular" and unlawful orders the current regime in Washington and its representatives may call on them to follow. Please support this bill.