

Dear Members of the Judiciary Committee, my name is Mary Linneman and I am a resident of South Portland. I would like to testify in favor of LD1259.

As a South Portland resident, I am aware that ICE has been actively engaging and jailing people in the state of Maine. I believe it is important that the people of Maine speak up in opposition of this endeavor, and that ICE receives no support from local law enforcement in engaging, detaining, and jailing immigrants due to their alleged illegal behaviour. It is important to clarify to all the relationship between local police and federal law enforcement within our state.

I support LD 1259 because routine encounters carry the risk of potential deportation. Immigrants with minor traffic violations or misdemeanors can and have been detained, although without criminal history. Programs like 287(g) create fear, not cooperation. This does not create public safety, but the lack of safety, as residents may be fearful to call police when threatened by fraud, domestic violence and unsafe working conditions. This applies to all community members and not only immigrants.

Immigration enforcement doesn't just affect people without legal status. U.S. citizens and lawful residents have been mistakenly detained and deported. This could add to the fear of relying on local law enforcement for Maine residents, and their lack of trust of local law figures. It also has the potential of diverting resources (paid for by our tax dollars) from other local and state police responsibilities and the investigation of serious crimes.

Please support the passage of LD 1259. In this era of changing policies and directives, Mainers deserve to know that their local and state law enforcement will continue to protect the people of Maine, and not contribute to the fear faced not only by immigrants but also by other residents of our state. Thank you.