

Stephen Majercik
Brunswick
LD 1259

Senator Carney, Representative Kuhn, and members of the Judiciary Committee, my name is Stephen Majercik and I live in Brunswick. I have lived in Maine for all but six of the last 39 years. I was a faculty member in the Computer Science Department at Bowdoin College from 2000 to 2023. I am now retired. I am writing in support of LD 1259, An Act to Enhance Public Safety in Maine by Defining the Relationship Between Local and Federal Law Enforcement. This bill draws a vital line between local policing and federal immigration enforcement—clarifying roles, building trust, and protecting the integrity of our communities.

In Maine, immigrants contribute to our economy, culture, and neighborhoods. Yet when local law enforcement is perceived as an extension of federal immigration authorities, it fosters fear rather than safety. Victims and witnesses of crime may hesitate to report abuse or seek help, fearing detention or deportation. This undermines the effectiveness of our justice system and erodes the social fabric of our towns and cities.

As a Unitarian Universalist, I am called by our shared values of Justice, Equity, and the inherent worth and dignity of every person. Abusive and coercive treatment of immigrants—whether through racially targeted policing or unjust detention—stands in direct opposition to these principles. LD 1259 provides a necessary safeguard against such harm by ensuring that Maine’s local law enforcement agencies do not engage in federal immigration enforcement unless required by law or court order.

This bill is not about shielding wrongdoing—it is about ensuring due process, equal protection, and community safety for all Mainers, regardless of where they were born. When our laws reflect fairness and humanity, we all benefit. LD 1259 affirms our state’s commitment to justice and the belief that no one should live in fear simply for seeking a better life.