

Josselyn Miller
Ellsworth
LD 1259

Good afternoon, Senators, Representatives, and honorable members of the Judiciary Committee. My name is Josselyn Miller, I live in Ellsworth, and I am here to testify in favor of LD 1259 and LD 1971.

ICE agents across the nation are illegally kidnapping, detaining and deporting individuals, including American citizens and legal residents. It is not within ICE's or any other law enforcement agency's power to sentence individuals without due process. This applies to all US residents, regardless of immigration status.

If federal agents do not uphold these basic constitutional and civil rights, it becomes the responsibility of local law enforcement to ensure the protection of our Maine residents, whether they have lived here their whole lives, are here for crucial seasonal work, and everything in between. This is not just a moral and ethical calling, but a legal and economically practical one as well; state, county, and municipal agencies can be held liable if found guilty of illegal and unconstitutional activities at taxpayers' expense. I do not agree to have my tax dollars pay for brash and dangerous mistakes conducted by the very people who have vowed to serve and protect.

Several generations ago, some my ancestors immigrated from French Canada to work the mills in central Maine. At the time, they too faced discrimination and hostility. Now, they are recognized alongside other immigrant communities from that time period as a vital workforce that helped build and shape Maine into the state we know and love today. Immigrants today are equally important in forming a strong and sustainable future. They provide vital support in areas that are struggling in the state: they are healthcare professionals, farmers, retailers, manufacturers, teachers, and so much more. We need them, and during this difficult time they need us.

I urge you to vote in favor of LD 1259 and LD 1971. Thank you for your time, I'm happy to answer any questions that you have.

Thank you,
Josselyn Reny Miller