

Emily O'Neill
Portland
LD 1971

Senator Carney, Representative Kuhn, and esteemed members of the Judiciary Committee:

My name is Emily O'Neill, I live in Portland, and I am a member of the Allen Avenue Unitarian Universalist Church where social justice issues are extremely important. I am testifying 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.

This bill has caught my interest because it is essential to the safety and well being of the people of our state. All people in Maine need to be supported in seeking safety, health, and educational opportunities, so law enforcement, health care facilities, and schools must remain spaces they can access without fear of retaliation. The actions that ICE has been taking over the last months are unconstitutional because they deny due process to people who are living in our country. Having our local police forcibly remove people off the street from schools or healthcare facilities would break the trust that is essential to their ability to keep us safe.

As UU's we declare that every person is inherently worthy and has the right to flourish with dignity, love, and compassion. We believe in encouraging multicultural communities where all feel welcome and can thrive.

For these reasons, I urge the committee to vote Ought to Pass on LD 1971.