

Lara Rosen
Portland
LD 1259

Dear Senator Carney, Representative Kuhn, and Members of the Committee, I am writing today as a resident of Portland, in strong support of LD 1259 and LD 1971. Even without local police cooperation, ICE and border control agents are undermining constitutional due process for noncitizens and citizens, undocumented and documented, often based on unconstitutional racial profiling. Communities that enter into 287(g) agreements with ICE are not only complicit but active participants in this unconstitutional activity.

The idea that ICE can apprehend and interrogate our neighbors who they suspect of being undocumented noncitizens - which can be interpreted incredibly broadly - is chilling and antidemocratic enough; to have our local police participate in this system destroys public trust and tears apart our communities. Unsurprisingly, it is mostly Brown and Black immigrants who are being caught up in this unconstitutional and traumatic web of abduction, detention, and extrajudicial removal. And it is imperative that Maine communities do everything we can to stand in the way of this horrific system.

Enacting LDs 1259 and 1971 is a critical act of noncompliance with the unconstitutional, racist actions of ICE. On the contrary, it shows deference to due process, the rule of law, and the dignity of all people. Maine law should protect Maine people; and this includes all of our immigrant neighbors, regardless of status. I urge you to support these measures to show that you support democratic and humane values.