

Good afternoon,

My name is Bonnie Shulman and I live in Greene, ME. I am testifying for both LD 1259 and 1971.

I have always had good relationships with Maine police and sheriffs, who have helped me out in difficult situations several times. Of course I am a white older woman and that may have had some bearing on the treatment I received, but it does let me know that the officers I encountered do have sympathy and compassion for (at least some) others, and take seriously their charge to serve and protect (at least some of) the public. Of course they also must follow the directives of their superiors and so if they have been deputized to enforce federal immigration laws on ICE's behalf, they will do so. These are *optional programs*. They constitute a direct attack on our communities. Maine Police should not be helping ICE tear families apart.

Workers should also be protected from being turned over to ICE/Border Patrol when they are simply trying work and support their families.

Maine resources should be used for Maine communities.

- 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. Failure to maintain basic access would have catastrophic impacts on public safety and public health.
- Maine resources are already strained and limited, with overtime spending on police [increasing by almost 30%](#) over the last 5 years.
- Maine law enforcement is not trained in the complex and changing area of immigration law, and does not have the capacity to add Federal law enforcement into their job description.

- These bills protect Maine law enforcement agencies from liability for following federal orders that might be illegal.

Immigrants are vital members of our economy and our communities, and they have constitutional rights.

- The constitution's guarantees of due process and equal protection apply to everyone in the United States, regardless of immigration status.
- This federal government – and others before it – have violated constitutional rights to carry out their mass deportation agenda.
- Immigrants in Maine are a critical driver of our state's economy. They do hard jobs, start businesses, and pay taxes. It's important for the legislature to value them for the future growth of Maine.
- There are 32,200 immigrant workers in Maine, making up 4.5 percent of Maine's labor force (note: this includes immigrants who have naturalized).
- Immigrant spending power in Maine is \$1.7B.
- Maine immigrants pay \$625.1M in taxes each year.
- Maine immigrants' contributions to Social Security are \$205.5M.
- Maine immigrants' contributions to Medicare are \$57.9M.
- Tourism, Maine's biggest industry, is heavily dependent on immigrant labor - and on immigrants coming to Maine for vacation. According to a [2016 report](#), "Immigrants account for almost 10% of workers in travel accommodation."

The following stories show that Maine police have been instrumental in Trump administration's effort to deport people who don't have criminal records, are here legally, and pose no threat to public safety:

- On Saturday, February 8th, while investigating a car accident in Eustis, Maine State Police detained 3 of the passengers and handed them over to federal Immigration authorities.
- In mid-March, Maine State Police helped federal immigration authorities detain a **17-year-old minor** who was traveling to work with his uncle.
- On March 13, after a routine traffic stop, the Waldo County Sheriff's office handed a man over to ICE.
- On March 11 and 12, U.S. CBP detained 16 migrant workers in Rangely. At least one of them was an asylum seeker.
- 27-year-old Richard Sanipatin, an asylum seeker, was detained in Kennebec County in a routine traffic stop in mid March.

This is not the Maine I know and love. We are better than this. Let's be a beacon of light for others to follow and stand up against tyranny and cruelty in the spirit of our beloved Margaret Chase Smith. Let us do the right thing.

Sincerely,

Bonnie Shulman

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Greene
LD 1259

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