

Jillian Smitherman
Bangor
LD 1259

Good afternoon, Senator Carney, Representative Kuhn and honorable members of the Judiciary Committee. My name is Jillian, I live in Bangor, and I am here to testify in favor of LD 1259.

I have worked in the maine agriculture sector for over a decade now and have had the privilege of working alongside many hardworking immigrant and migrant workers.

This mass deportation agenda has created so much fear and uncertainty for a lot of these hard working individuals. All workers in maine deserve respect, safety and protection.

Allowing local police to carry out federal immigration enforcement not only creates a strain on local resources, but also creates a culture of fear. More crimes will likely go unreported, if there is an increasing chance that an interaction with local police could lead to deportation.

Also, immigration enforcement doesn't just affect people without legal status. U.S. citizens and lawful residents have been detained and even deported. If local police are allowed to enforce this federal mass deportation agenda, these instances may rise.

I support this bill because local police need to be focused on taking care of mainers and people who work in our beautiful state. Taking resources away from keeping our communities safe is not beneficial to the state of Maine.

I urge you to vote in favor of LD 1259. Thank you for your time.