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Portland
LD 1259

Good afternoon Senator Anne Carney, Representative Amy Kuhn, and esteemed members of the judiciary committee. I am urging you to support LD 1259 and LD 1971.

As a trans person in the U.S., I can understand a small fraction of what it is like to be on the receiving end of fear mongering and state sanctioned attacks by the government. There's a deep fear that at any point I could be targeted just for existing in a public space. That fear has wrecked my nervous system, making my daily life feel overwhelming.

For our immigrants, discrimination of this magnitude becomes life or death for individuals and their families. We've seen how detainees who are legally allowed to be in the country are being abducted and sent to overcrowded, inhumane prisons in other countries like El Salvador. Others have been sent to detention centers in states outside of the one they reside in.

We know that these discriminatory practices are affecting mainers. Here are just a handful of stories that we know about in our state:

- 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.

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.

These bills are about who we are as Mainers, and the future we want for Maine. It's time for us to say clearly:

Maine will not be ICE's foot soldier.

Maine will lead with courage, justice, and care.

Please vote ought to pass for LD 1259 and LD 1971