

Ella Tabasky
Brunswick
LD 1259

Senator Carney, Representative Kuhn, and honorable members of the Joint Standing Committee on the Judiciary,

My name is Ella Tabasky, and I write in strong support of LD 1259 and LD 1971.

LD 1259 would prohibit Maine police and sheriffs from entering into 287(g) agreements—voluntary programs that deputize local law enforcement to enforce federal immigration law on behalf of ICE.

These agreements do not make us safer. They make our neighbors afraid to drive, go to work, and live their daily lives. They tear families apart. They invite racial profiling and open the door to constitutional violations. Maine law enforcement should never be an arm of ICE.

LD 1971 builds on this protection, barring all levels of law enforcement (state, county, and municipal) from collaborating with ICE or Border Patrol, focusing on protecting workers and clarifying the boundaries of law enforcement authority in relation to immigration matters.

I am Jewish. My mother was a Holocaust educator. I was raised to recognize the machinery of state-sponsored dehumanization and how quickly people can be targeted, detained, and disappeared for simply existing.

I was taught that never again is not a promise we make only to ourselves. It is a promise we extend to others — across borders, identities, and generations.

In 1943, Anne Frank wrote:^[1]^[SEP]“Terrible things are happening outside. At any time of night and day, poor helpless people are being dragged out of their homes...Children come home from school to find that their parents have disappeared.”

The recent story of the man in Waldo County who was detained by immigration after coming to the aid of a family member who had been stopped for speeding by a Waldo police officer is horrifying. His family was left behind —confused, heartbroken, terrified.

That’s the reality these programs create.

LD 1259 and LD 1971 are about ending state complicity. About refusing to allow our public institutions to become tools of persecution.

Neutrality in the face of such cruelty is not neutrality; it is consent. Never again means never again for anybody, and never again is now.

I urge you to vote ought to pass on both LD 1259 and LD 1971.