

To: The Honorable Anne Carney, Senate Chair
The Honorable Amy Kuhn, House Chair
Members of the Joint Standing Committee on Judiciary

DATE: May 19, 2025

RE: LD1259 An Act to Enhance Public Safety in Maine by Defining the Relationship
Between Local and Federal Law Enforcement and
LD1971 An Act to Protect Workers in This State by Clarifying the Relationship of State
and Local Law Enforcement Agencies with Federal Immigration Authorities

Dear Senator Carney, Representative Kuhn, and Honorable Members of the Judiciary
Committee;

My name is Dawn Walls. I am from the town of Unity. I am testifying in support of LD1259 and LD1971 before the committee today. I *strongly* support these bills for the following reasons:

It has been prior common practice to keep local law enforcement separate from federal law enforcement, and for good reasons. Immigration enforcement is not the job of local law enforcement. Tasking local law enforcement in the capacity of "force multipliers" for ICE will not only over tax current resources, but it will have a chilling effect on the confidence of citizens to report crimes. This will not make anyone safer, except perhaps the criminals.

We are already seeing examples of the kinds of outrageous behaviors and treatments ICE officers are subjecting people to— people who are here legally, who have not committed any crime. People are being stripped of their legal status, without notice, without cause, and without due process. People are being called criminals for exercising their Constitutionally protected rights to free speech and peaceful protest. We know the terrifying places these policies *will* go if we do not do everything we can to stand against them.

So, it is with pride that I am here to support our Maine legislators in standing for our citizens and against abusive Executive policies by refusing to enter into agreements that violate constitutional rights, as well as local policies, and disrupt our local communities.

For these and many more reasons, I therefore, *strongly* urge you to vote "Ought to Pass" on these bills. Thank you for your time and the opportunity to share my perspective with the Committee.