

Ashley Webb
Farmington
LD 1259

Chairperson, members of the committee,

My name is Ashley Webb, and I am a resident of Farmington, Maine. I'm writing to express my strong support for LD1259, a bill that would prohibit Maine law enforcement from acting as agents of federal immigration enforcement.

This bill is not about shielding criminals. It is about preserving public trust, upholding the Constitution, and keeping our communities safe.

As a transgender woman, I know what it means to live on the margins—to worry that simply existing might make you a target. Immigrants in Maine, especially those without legal status, live with that fear every single day. When state or local police become entangled in immigration enforcement, it creates a climate of silence. People stop reporting crimes. Victims stay quiet. Witnesses disappear.

That makes everyone less safe.

Let's also remember that ICE is a federal agency with its own budget, officers, and mission. Nothing in this bill stops ICE from doing its job. What it does is make sure our local police stay focused on theirs: responding to domestic violence calls, stopping fentanyl trafficking, and keeping our schools and streets safe.

We live in a state where many of our newest neighbors are immigrants—refugees, asylum seekers, and workers who contribute to our economy and communities every day. LD1259 helps ensure they feel safe cooperating with police, whether they're reporting a theft, serving as a witness, or calling for help in a moment of crisis.

Public safety depends on trust, not fear. And trust is built when people know that calling the police won't get their family ripped apart.

LD1259 doesn't weaken the rule of law. It strengthens it—by drawing the right line between local responsibility and federal overreach.

I urge you to pass this bill and show Maine stands for smart, fair, and community-first policing.

Thank you for your time and service.

Sincerely,
Ashley Webb
Farmington, Maine