

Craig Bramley
Portland
LD 2176
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Portland, Maine
February 9, 2026

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

Thank you for the opportunity to address the Committee. My name is Craig Bramley. I'm a resident of Portland. I am writing in support of LD 2176.

As a recently retired attorney who is working to build connections within my community, I have a unique perspective regarding the abuses of ICE in our city and in our country. We've seen in Portland, Minneapolis, and elsewhere that ICE agents are acting in violation of the 4th and 14th Amendments of the United States Constitution. The Department of Homeland Security is violating orders of lower courts. This lawlessness has become the norm.

For Maine to prosper, we need an orderly society subject to the rule of law and fair compensation for victims of governmental abuse. This is already enshrined in state law under the Maine Tort Claims Act. However, the abuses we see now are not by state, county, or municipal actors but rather federal agents and agencies. Members of the Trump administration have suggested that these agents have immunity for their actions. While this is a misinterpretation of current law, the assurance of immunity only encourages more abuse.

LD 2176 would establish remedies pursuant to the Maine Human Rights Act that would provide Maine citizens with the ability to hold federal agents accountable. This is a necessary step to guarantee the rights provided to all Americans under the Constitution and Bill of Rights.

For this reason, I urge you to vote in favor of LD 2176 and any amendments that would strengthen the ability of citizens to bring these claims.

Thank you,