



CITY OF PORTLAND

To: Committee on State and Local Government
From: Kate Snyder, Mayor
Date: May 3, 2021
RE: Testimony in opposition to LD [1340](#) (*An Act To Ensure Municipal Compliance with Federal Immigration Laws*)

Good morning, Senator Baldacci, Representative Matlack and distinguished members of the Committee on State and Local Government:

My name is Kate Snyder, Mayor of the City of Portland, and I am here on behalf of the Portland City Council's Legislative Committee in opposition to LD 1340, *An Act To Ensure Municipal Compliance with Federal Immigration Laws*.

Since 2003, the City of Portland has had an ordinance in place that prohibits Portland police officers and other employees from inquiring into the immigration status of any person, unless otherwise required by law. In addition to the exception for inquiries where required by law, our ordinance also has certain exceptions for police officers investigating felony crimes where other factors are present. For nearly 20 years, the City has found this ordinance sufficient to protect our City from criminals, while also protecting our citizens and guests from inadvertent profiling, intrusive questioning, and other ill effects.

The way this bill is written, it is unclear whether Portland's State funding would be in jeopardy due to its long-standing ordinance. This funding is absolutely critical in supporting some of the City's most vulnerable citizens, and we strongly oppose any legislation that threatens it.

Besides potentially penalizing the City of Portland for local policies that have proven to be effective and fair, this bill would destroy the partnership and trust built over the last 20 years between the Portland Police Department and Portland's non-U.S. citizens, who make up almost 14% of Portland's population and constitute 75% of Portland's total demographic growth since 2011.

In summary, I ask that you vote in opposition to LD 1340. Thank you for your time and consideration.