

Davila Leblanc
Stockton Springs
LD 1383

To the esteemed members of this committee.

I thank you for the time you are giving me to testify in support of LD 1383.

Ten years ago I moved to this country from Canada to be with my wife and help her with the care for her older brother with needs whom this country's health care system had completely failed. I can humbly say that caring for him is something I am incredibly proud of.

I am now proudly working for the United States Post Office. I did not "steal" this job from anyone. I applied to it because I wanted a job that would allow me to serve my community. Now as a Postal Clerk I take equal pride in helping the people who come into my office navigate and understand their postal service. It is my profound belief that a functional democracy NEEDS a functional postal service. Because of this fact, I owe it to the people I serve to give them competent, transparent and ethical access to this service.

I believe the same must apply to ALL echelons of government and public service. Competent, transparent and ethical. I cannot in good faith approve of ANY branch of a democratic government that does not abide by these fundamental principles. When I perform my functions as a clerk, I have a clear uniform and name tag. When I make mistakes I am held accountable and I am made to take whatever corrective actions are needed to prevent that mistake from being done again.

I do not believe we can rightfully call ourselves a free democracy when masked men are given "absolute immunity" to terrorize our communities and those of our friends and neighbors. I do not believe we can call ourselves a free democracy when we have institutions, both private and public, that are profiting from fear mongering, bigotry, xenophobia and genocide. We cannot allow these institutions and individuals, who are enriching themselves while eroding all of the public services we need and depend on, to continue to do so unopposed.

I hesitate to use the terms legal or illegal immigrant, because the only consistency between those two terms is the word "immigrant" and history has taught us that time and time again, that these terms are interchangeable. But as a lawful permanent resident of the united states of america, I find it beyond insulting that I am told to pay into a system that will not use my tax money to offer more public services, but would rather invest in supporting human rights violations by entities like ICE. And if tomorrow morning I were to wake up and the piece of paper that makes it legal for me to stay here was revoked it would be MY taxes that would be paying for a monster pretending to be a public servant to abuse my rights and deport me to wherever this administration wanted to.

No taxation without representation, ICE does not represent the United States, they do not represent the interests of the working-class people like me. They do not represent US, they do not represent democracy or freedom and they do not deserve our funding or protection.

I thank you for your time. Solidarity, freedom, dignity and safety for all.