

Greetings, Senator Carney, Representative Kuhn, and Members of the Judiciary Committee,

My name is Julie Orrego, and I live in Portland, Maine. I am submitting this testimony in strong support of LD 2106, An Act to Prohibit the Disclosure of Nonpublic Records Without Proper Judicial Review. This legislation would protect sensitive locations, including schools, childcare centers, hospitals, healthcare facilities, and libraries, from immigration enforcement activities.

For decades, across both Republican and Democratic administrations, the federal government maintained a longstanding and commonsense policy limiting immigration enforcement at sensitive locations like schools and hospitals. These protections were rooted in a shared understanding that all people must be able to access essential public services and meet basic human needs without fear. Democrats and Republicans alike recognized that ensuring children could attend school, families could seek healthcare, and communities could share vital public health information was a matter of broad public interest and safety.

One of the first actions of the Trump administration was to eliminate this federal policy, opening the door to immigration enforcement at places that had long been recognized as essential community spaces. These protections did not pose a meaningful barrier to law enforcement; rather, policymakers understood that the public health and safety benefits of protecting sensitive locations far outweighed immigration enforcement concerns.

Under the current federal administration, immigration enforcement has become broad and indiscriminate, targeting immigrant communities as a whole and creating a public health and humanitarian crisis. This includes widespread fear and trauma, family separation, detention in inhumane conditions, and deportation to life-threatening circumstances.

Since the launch of mass deportation efforts, immigrant families in Maine have been afraid to leave their homes, go to work, send their children to school, seek medical care or social services, attend religious services, or move freely within their communities.

These fears were amplified in September 2025, just as the school year was beginning, when immigration officers arrested a parent in the driveway of an elementary school in Portland after he dropped off his child. There was no justifiable reason for this arrest to occur at a school. The incident sent shockwaves through the community, across Maine, and nationally, making clear the urgent need for protection for children, families, and the workers who staff schools, daycare facilities, hospitals, healthcare settings, and libraries.

A high school junior, Samuel, described how this climate of fear has affected his ability to attend school:

"If I go to school and ICE catches my brothers or me, my mom will not know where we are. That's why I don't want to go to school. At school, they tell us to turn off our phones and put them in a safe place, so that if we are in the cafeteria or the bathroom, we cannot call anyone. I have a group chat on my phone, and nobody is going to school because all my friends are Latin people. Right now, it's getting worse. People are scared to walk to school or go to the bus because it is dangerous, as ICE could catch them."

No child should be forced to choose between their education and their safety. Yet this is the reality for many families in Maine today. There are more than 21,000 U.S. citizen children in Maine who have at least one non-citizen parent, and the trauma caused by mass immigration enforcement has profound consequences for their mental health, stability, and development.

With ICE's new operation currently underway in Maine, the need for LD 2106 is heightened and even more urgent. This bill directly addresses the fear and trauma caused by indiscriminate enforcement by protecting people who are accessing essential services — and the workers who provide those services — at sensitive locations.

LD 2106 also protects Maine's workforce and economy. When parents do not feel safe sending their children to school or leaving them at daycare, they cannot go to work. The ripple effects harm employers, communities, and the state.

While Maine does not have the authority to prohibit all immigration enforcement at sensitive locations — which is governed by federal law — the state *does* have the authority to ensure that Maine entities are not actively permitting or facilitating enforcement at these places. Under the Constitution, law enforcement officers must present a valid judicial warrant or receive voluntary consent to enter non-public areas.

LD 2106 provides clear guidance that immigration officers are prohibited from entering sensitive locations without a valid judicial warrant and that workers at these locations are not permitted to provide voluntary consent for entry. The bill also clarifies that these entities may not voluntarily share immigration information about Maine residents unless presented with a valid judicial warrant or otherwise required by law.

Accordingly, LD 2106 protects the rights and safety of vulnerable Maine residents — including children — as well as educators, healthcare workers, childcare providers, librarians, and other staff. It advances critical public policy goals by ensuring all Maine children can receive an education, that public health information is freely shared, and that essential services remain accessible to everyone.

For these reasons, I urge the committee to support LD 2106 and vote Ought to Pass.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Julie Orrego

Portland, Maine