

Tia Newlove
Portland
LD 2106

My name is Tia Newlove and I submit this testimony as a concerned professional living and working in Cumberland County. Prior to the change made by the current administration, Democrats and Republicans alike recognized the important public policy reasons of making sure all children, regardless of immigration status, can receive an education, and that all people can seek medical care. I turn 30 this year, but as a teenager I was diagnosed and treated for Hodgkin's Lymphoma. Being treated in a pediatric oncology unit as an adolescent creates memories you cannot forget, even more than a decade later. I have seen both young children and their parents on some of the worst days of their lives. Between diagnosis, in-patient treatment, extremely long out-patient days, and intense medication regimes, parents play the role of advocates, translators, entertainers, and most importantly, loving caregivers. There is no need to introduce a fear of confrontation with immigration officers to that already demanding environment. More than 21,000 children in Maine have at least one immigrant parent. At one point or another, most of those children will need medical care – and those children and their parents deserve to seek medical care free of fear. With the current ICE presence in Maine, the need for LD 2106 is urgent. I fully believe my neighbors, immigrant or not, are hardworking, caring people that deserve the dignity to go to work, get an education, and seek medical care. Thank you.