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Portland  
LD 2106

To the respected members of the legislative committee,

Thank you for taking my testimony. I am writing to express strong support for LD 2106, and ask you to do the same. I am outraged and horrified at the terror that is unfolding in my town, in my own neighborhood.

Last week, one of my kids teammates texted that he could not come to practice. Another friend was afraid to come to our house for a birthday party. My kids are worried about classmates they haven't seen in school, and asking about whether they have food, and are they scared. All for fear of being taken by ICE.

This is not acceptable. This is not the America I believe in, and this is not the Maine I believe in.

We have long held, as Democrats and Republicans alike, the important public policy reasons of making sure all children, regardless of immigration status, can receive an education (as well as food and other stability provided at school), that all people can seek medical care.

The Trump administration's elimination of a federal policy that prohibited ICE enforcement actions at places like schools and hospitals has disrupted that, without due cause. Such policies did not pose any significant impediment to law enforcement, and the important public health reasons of ensuring all people could access these places far outweighed immigration enforcement needs.

I have heard the argument that the increased ICE presence is to keep us "safer" by targeting "criminals". This is not true. I feel less safe. My neighbors feel less safe, my kids and their friends feel less safe.

Passing LD 2106 is one step we can take toward protecting the basic human rights of all people in Maine. Thank you for joining me in supporting LD 2106, and thank you for your service.