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LD 2106

As a member of the Jewish community, I understand deeply what it means to be part of a wandering people in search of home, acceptance, and a community that follows the principle of "welcome thy neighbor" and embraces the Beloved Community. My family's story is one of survival and hope -- my parents and grandparents were among the fortunate who survived the horrors of World War II by fleeing to different parts of the world, including enduring time in a work camp. They came to America seeking refuge, opportunity, and the promise of a better life for themselves and their future family. They dreamed of the American Dream.

They did come here. They did plant seeds. They did reach that dream. But when I speak to my parents today, they express a fear I never thought I would hear from them: they worry that this place has lost its way. The country they saw as a city on a hill -- a beacon of opportunity and refuge -- now, to them, shows signs of despair.

LD 2106 is part of how we restore that promise. This bill is about being able to reclaim some semblance of that American Dream for all who seek it.

LD 2106 protects the public health and safety of all Maine residents by prohibiting ICE from conducting immigration enforcement at schools, hospitals, healthcare facilities, daycares, and libraries unless they produce a valid judicial warrant signed by a judge. The bill also ensures that immigration status information held by these institutions is properly protected, and provides clear guidance to workers at these locations so they are not forced into impossible individual decisions.

This bill serves Maine and strengthens all of our communities. It ensures that:
All of Maine's children can receive an education, food, and stability at school without fear;

All Maine residents can seek help when they're sick or injured and share critical public health information;

Maine parents can leave their children in safe places while at work;
Maine workers can go to work because they can safely send their children to school or daycare;

All Maine people can seek information, referrals, and services at libraries;
Maine's teachers, healthcare workers, daycare workers, and librarians do not feel afraid to report to work and do their essential jobs; and
Maine's teachers, healthcare workers, daycare workers, and librarians have clear information from the state about what to do if ICE shows up.

My grandparents and parents came to this country fleeing persecution. They came seeking sanctuary and the chance to build a life in safety. They found it here. That promise -- that America can be a place of refuge, opportunity, and community for all -- is what LD 2106 helps to preserve. I urge you to support this bill and help ensure that Maine remains a place where all people, regardless of their immigration status, can access the essential services they need to live with dignity and safety.