

Testimony in Support of LD 2106

Judiciary Committee – January 29, 2026

Dear Honorable Members of the Committee,

My name is Katie Brydon, and I submit this testimony solely in my personal capacity. While I serve as Chair of Bangor's Racial Equity, Inclusion, and Human Rights Committee and Vice Chair of the Bangor School Committee, I am not speaking on behalf of either body or any governing entity.

In my capacity as Chair of Bangor's Racial Equity, Inclusion, and Human Rights Committee and Vice Chair of the Bangor School Committee, I regularly witness how policy choices translate into real-world impacts for families and children. I am submitting this testimony in my personal capacity because I see the consequences of inaction every day in my work, and I believe deeply that we can—and should—do better.

I am writing in strong support of LD 2106, and I want to be honest about the urgency and emotion behind this position. I am deeply concerned—and increasingly angry—about the fear and instability I am witnessing in our communities as a result of indiscriminate immigration enforcement near places that should be unequivocally safe.

Across Maine, families are living with heightened anxiety about sending their children to school, seeking medical care, or accessing basic community services. Children in particular are absorbing this fear. The sense of safety that allows people to learn, heal, and participate fully in community life is being actively undermined by unregulated and unnecessary enforcement actions, fueled by false narratives that equate immigration with criminality.

For decades, administrations of both political parties recognized the importance of protecting sensitive locations such as schools and hospitals from immigration enforcement. These policies were rooted in common sense and public health: people cannot access education, healthcare, or social services when fear governs their daily decisions. Ending those protections has created a public health and mental health crisis that extends far beyond immigrant communities and affects the well-being of Maine as a whole.

I am seeing the consequences of this shift directly. Students are missing school because they are afraid of what might happen if they show up. Families are avoiding healthcare and public spaces altogether. Trust in the very institutions meant to serve and protect is eroding and rebuilding that trust will take years.

These are not hypothetical risks or distant possibilities. This is happening now; these are the conversations I am having on a daily basis. The weight of fear and helplessness in our communities is profound, and it is reshaping how families make even the most basic decisions. We should never accept a reality where children are forced to weigh their rights to an education against their personal safety. Students are jeopardizing their ability to pass midterms and graduate on time because they are too afraid

to come to school—because school no longer feels safe. This is not the kind of society I want to live in, and it is certainly not the kind of society I work tirelessly every day to uphold.

What is especially troubling is that the responsibility for managing the fallout of these policies has fallen on parents, educators, healthcare workers, librarians, and volunteers – people who are already doing everything they can to support and protect their communities. These individuals are showing up every day, often without pay or institutional power, trying to preserve stability for children and families.

At the same time, those who are elected and paid to uphold basic human rights and public safety are failing to act.

LD 2106 is a necessary and measured response. It does not prohibit lawful immigration enforcement. Instead, it restores clarity, constitutional norms, and basic humanity by requiring a valid judicial warrant before ICE can enter schools, hospitals, daycares, and libraries. It protects sensitive personal information from being voluntarily shared without legal compulsion and provides clear guidance to workers who should never be placed in impossible, high-stakes situations.

These are not extraordinary demands. They represent the most basic level of simple human rights. What this bill asks for is not hard. It is the bare minimum. Across our communities, people are weighed down by the sadness and hardship of watching friends and neighbors fear for their families' safety. All we are asking for is the ability to send children to school, seek medical care, and access public spaces without fear. LD 2106 affirms that these fundamental rights still matter.

This legislation also protects Maine's workforce and economy. When parents cannot safely send their children to school or daycare, they cannot go to work. When people are afraid to seek healthcare, public health outcomes worsen for everyone. When fear replaces trust, the entire community suffers.

There is no legitimate reason for schools, hospitals, libraries, or daycares to function as sites of intimidation. If immigration enforcement is justified, it should be supported by a valid judicial warrant. Anything less undermines both the rule of law and public safety.

LD 2106 affirms a basic principle: that Maine will not be complicit in policies that endanger children, destabilize families, and erode community trust. It is a necessary step toward restoring safety, dignity, and common sense.

I urge the Committee to support and pass LD 2106.

Thank you for your consideration.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Katie Brydon". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long, sweeping underline.

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