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LD 2106

Last week, the busy hallway that contains both my high school English classroom and the classrooms of our ESOL teachers was noticeably quiet. The rooms where our new Mainer students learn and grow had more empty seats than I've ever seen. At lunch, I listened to a student make plans for his safe transport home with his white classmate and watched him pull the papers showing his legal right to be here out of his backpack, stored against the nightmare that he might be detained. These absences, and this fear, are a response to the increased presence of ICE agents in our city and to the violence and family separation that ICE brings with them. My brilliant, brave school community is smaller and more frightened than I have ever seen it.

Students are missing out on the education, socialization, and nutrition that they need to thrive because they fear their school being targeted by ICE. Passing LD 2106 would provide students and their families some reassurance that at least they are safe on school property. Please, pass this law so that schools can go back to what we do best: educating the students in front of us.