

Amelia Neilson
Portland
LD 2106

Chair Carney, Chair Kuhn, and the distinguished members of the Committee on Judiciary,

My name is Amelia Neilson, and I live in Portland, Maine. I am a library user (shout out to Curtis Memorial in Brunswick as the best place to work), an on-again-off-again substitute teacher, and a human being in need of health care professionals. I think this makes me qualified to speak up on institutions that I find critical to my daily life.

I am writing today in support of LD 2106 An Act to Prohibit the Disclosure of Nonpublic Records Without Proper Judicial Review.

If the cruelty and brutality coming out of Minnesota is not enough to convince folks that ICE is acting as an illegal, violent occupying force, first, I challenge you to watch three videos of raw footage coming out of the Twin Cities, and then please hear this:

Students here in Maine are not going to school. Families here in Maine are sheltering in place. I have looked into children's and parent's eyes this week and seen desperate fear. Our public spaces - our schools, our libraries, healthcare facilities - these are all places that confirm our humanity, celebrate and strengthen our community. These spaces are for everyone. They serve everyone. They remind us that we are at our best when we are in service to each other. LD2106 would give strength to the people working in these public spaces - librarians, teachers, nurses - they do not want to see the people they care with and care for taken from them. Stand by these workers: help them protect folks by giving them shored up legal standing to deny ICE without a judicial warrant.

Maine has a duty to stand up to the terror that is being imposed by federal agents. We have a duty to ourselves to keep our communities safe. We must take every action we can to impede the illegal actions - abducting corrections officers, visa holders! Whisking people away without due process!

I do not have many words, only a heavy heart and a desire that folks all around me hear a call to action.

Please, let Maine live up to its moral values. Please vote in favor of LD2106.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Amelia Neilson