

Katie Saunders, FNP-C
Hampden, ME

Senator Carney, Representative Kuhn, and Honorable Members of the Judiciary Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to address the Committee.

I am writing in strong support of LD 2106 today.

For decades, administrations of both parties have had policies in place that limit immigration enforcement operations at sensitive locations such as schools and hospitals. These policies were built on a commonsense understanding that the importance of people being able to access these locations without fear is a broad matter of public health and in the interest of everyone.

One of the first actions the current federal administration took in office was to end this longstanding policy, while pushing false narratives trying to link immigrants with criminality and public safety. Over the past year, as indiscriminate immigration enforcement has dramatically ramped up in Maine and beyond, Maine's noncitizen residents are living in deep fear and anxiety, afraid to take their children to school, seek healthcare, and more.

On September 12, 2025, just as the new school year was getting started, immigration officers arrested a parent who had just dropped off his child at an elementary school in Portland in the school's driveway. This arrest, which did not need to be conducted at an elementary school, sent shock waves across the community, state, and entire country, and made clear that immediate steps are needed to protect Maine's children, families, and provide support for workers at places like schools, daycare facilities, hospitals, and healthcare facilities, and libraries. The urgency and critical need for these protections is deepened by the current ICE operation in Maine, with reports of parents being arrested after dropping children at school, and other ICE activity near these sensitive locations. LD 2106 will protect the public health of Maine and help ensure people feel safer at public schools, hospitals and healthcare facilities, daycares, and libraries by prohibiting ICE from entering these locations to conduct immigration enforcement unless they can produce a valid judicial warrant signed by a judge. The bill also ensures that any information about a person's immigration status that is held by these entities is properly protected, unless federal law or a valid judicial warrant compels its sharing. And importantly, the bill provides guidance and support to workers at these locations, ensuring they are not put in crisis situations and forced to make individual decisions. It serves Maine and strengthens all of our communities when:

- All of Maine's children can receive an education, food, and stability at school;

- All Maine residents can seek help when they're sick or injured and share public health information;
- Maine parents can leave their children in a safe place 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.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Katie Saunders, FNP-C