

I am writing to strongly urge the passage of LD2106, the emergency ICE bill, in order to provide some measure of protection for the people of Maine. I am very worried about, in fact horrified at the Trump administration's actions to "normalize" a military state by using their unidentifiable agents to aggressively enter public buildings without a warrant, grab private information and lawlessly capture, and in some cases kill, incarcerate and/or torture people who are legally here or have pursued / have been pursuing legal channels to gain the right to be in the United States.

A school's secretary, a child care provider, a hospital nurse is powerless against multiple armed agents, and the agents know it. This law will provide such people the legal backing and strength to state that they cannot legally provide the access the agents are demanding.

The bill will also help provide some safety and privacy to people as they go about their lives, go to school or a library or seek medical help. Maine must ensure that all people can access crucial public services and meet basic human needs without fear.

ICE's aggressive tactics traumatize children and families. We must protect them and enable them to live their lives without such fear as they continue to wait for our overburdened and underfunded immigration system to do their jobs.

Regarding this administration's targeting of immigrants:

The vast majority of Americans are or are descended from people "from away." New immigrants should not suffer because our Congress cannot get their act together to improve the efficiency of our immigration system. IMMIGRANTS HAVE MADE OUR COUNTRY GREAT. They share the best qualities of what we cherish in this country: they are a self-selected population of self-starters and courageous risk-takers who were willing to give up their former lives and homes to come here and start over, typically from nothing. They are hard workers and cherished employees.

Please pass LD2106 while also advocating to de-fund ICE and work to craft and fund a functional and efficient national immigration process.

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