

Kelsey Thompson
Biddeford
LD 2106

Thank you to the Judiciary Committee and Representative Sato who presented this legislation, for your time. I am here to urge you to pass LD 2106 in order to protect Mainers' rights and safety.

I am an elementary school teacher employed within the Portland Public School District. I specifically chose this district because of my love of the diverse student and staff population. The recent ICE raids within the Portland and Lewiston communities have been appalling and unjust. I have seen first hand how my students are being affected by the fear ICE patrols have brought into their lives. Parents are keeping their kids home in fear of getting abducted on their way to dropping their kids off at school and my class sizes have diminished. Fear is palpable within the community I serve and it is unacceptable.

LD 2106 would help to protect schools, hospitals, and childcare facilities by limiting immigration enforcement on their grounds. By passing this legislation, it would ensure that schools remain "safe and accessible to all state residents regardless of immigration status". My students and their families, as well as my staff members, deserve to come to school and feel safe and respected. Maine is made up of a beautiful medley of people and this bill would help keep the rich diversity of this state safe. I urge you to pass this legislation to give the families I serve the same dignities and rights that all Mainers deserve.

Thank you for your time.