

Rosie Ankhartz
Portland
LD 2106

To the Members of the Judiciary Committee,

My name is Rosie, and I am a Speech-Language Pathologist at an outpatient clinic in Portland. I primarily work with minimally verbal New Mainers with Autism. For the past two weeks, two-thirds of my caseload stopped attending speech therapy because their parents feared that they would be abducted by ICE and separated from my patients. These children desperately need speech therapy to learn how to communicate. If they cannot safely get these services before they turn five, they are significantly more likely to need many more years of speech therapy. Losing out on services during a critical period of development has lasting impacts.

Many of my school-aged patients are missing school due to ICE, which doesn't just affect their education; it also deprives them of their most reliable meals of the day. These children are going hungry and falling further behind their peers.

Additionally, my patients who get direct support services at home or in group homes are primarily staffed by New Mainers who are no longer able to safely show up for work, leaving their families in a lurch. Parents of my patients have been unable to go to work because their children's in-home support has been too afraid to go outside.

Please protect our community's health and education

I urge you to support LD 2106.

Sincerely,