

Elizabeth Eames
Lewiston
LD 2106

I am testifying today in favor of LD2106.

I do so personally, but from the vantage point of having had four years' experience as the Ward 3 [i.e., downtown] Representative to the Lewiston School Committee.

LD2106 Par.14 #1 forbids school employees from giving voluntary consent thereby permitting immigration enforcement personnel to enter non-public areas of their institution. This safeguard is needed state-wide to protect learning environments everywhere, yet it seems especially important in deeply divided communities such as mine.

Lewiston is the second largest school district with the fastest growing school population in the state. Approximately half of our students present as black or brown, which means most if not all of our students might fear for their own or their friends' safety in these trying times.

Our LPS logo succinctly asserts ALL OF OUR KIDS ARE ALL OUR KIDS. Unfortunately, some townsfolk vociferously resist the logo's message. On social media such as facebook and at public comment sessions too we hear in both blatant and indirect fashion that only a subset of our children are worthy.

In towns as deeply divided as Lewiston, it is not impossible that some employee might blithely or even gleefully place our valuable charges in unnecessary peril. LD2106 would provide clarity and guidance to all of our workers that immigration officers are to be prohibited from entry without a valid judicial warrant.

I urge the committee to pass on an emergency basis LD2106 in order to ensure that this protection can be enforced state-wide and ASAP.

Thank you for your attention,
Elizabeth Anne Eames, Ph.D.