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LD 2106

My name is April Humphrey and I am from Yarmouth, Maine. I am currently a doctoral student in school psychology at the University of Southern Maine. Prior to that, I was an early childhood educator for over ten years. I am submitting testimony in support of LD 2106 out of concern for the potential for trauma and harm to children should federal immigration officials be allowed unwarranted access to remove children, family, and staff from school grounds. Family separation caused by arrest and detention of immigrants regardless of status, and the increased sense of fear surrounding detainment and deportation, is harming students, families, and communities in Maine (Martinez-Donate et al. 2024, Sherif et al. 2025).

Schools in some communities have voiced concern for students no longer attending school, parents and caregivers not wanting to go into schools, and fear of sending students to bus stops. Schools are considering virtual options, and in some cases offering police escort to and from school for students, in light of increased presence of federal immigration operations in Maine. The presence of these stressful events impact not only the learning environment, but also the social, emotional, and behavioral well-being of students (Ee & Gandara, 2019). School psychologists, including those in training such as myself, hold ethical and legal obligations to support all of our students, regardless of citizenship (NASP Guiding Principles IV.1. Promoting Healthy School, Family, and Community Environments).

It is with these concerns and obligations in mind that I urge you to support LD 2106. Ensuring that federal immigration officials are barred from entering schools without a valid, judicial warrant is an important step toward ensuring that Maine schools are safe environments for school students and their families.

References:

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