

Avery Munns
Pittsfield, Maine
January 29, 2026

Dear Senator Carney, Representative Kuhn, and Honorable Members of the Judiciary Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to address the Committee. My name is Avery Munns. I am a registered voter in Pittsfield. I am urging you to support LD2106.

I am an English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) teacher in the Waterville Public Schools district. Prior to this school year, I taught in the Lewiston Public Schools district for three years. I work directly with immigrant and refugee populations, and I have seen firsthand the negative impacts of the latest increase in ICE enforcement in Maine.

When I asked my immigrant and refugee students how they think school *should* feel, they said that school should be, at the bare minimum, “at least safe.” One student said she likes school because she wants “to learn” and “to make a good future.”

Yet, the increased ICE presence in Maine has made my immigrant students feel “scared,” “worried,” and that “it’s more dangerous right now.” One student said, “I have to be worried all the time for me and my family.” Another said, “I don’t want to walk in the road anymore” to come to school. One student reported that many of his friends are not going to school at all out of fear.

When students are worried about their lives and the lives of their families and friends, they can’t focus on instruction. They can’t learn, and they can’t make that good future their families have sacrificed so much to try to achieve when moving to America.

One immigrant student said to me, “you have to thank God you were born here.”

All students, no matter where they were born, deserve the bare minimum—to be “at least safe” at school, as my student said. Please vote “ought to pass” to show these amazing, talented, resilient students across our state that our elected officials are doing everything they can to make school a safe place for all.

Thank you again for the opportunity to share my perspective with the Committee. I urge you to vote “Ought to Pass” on this bill. Thank you and have a great day.