

Kerry Anderson
Monmouth
LD 2106

Dear Members of the Judiciary Committee,

I urge you to pass LD 2106 now. It will help all Mainers access education and health care without the level of fear that many must now carry. This fear is unacceptable. For decades, both Republican and Democratic federal administrations have had policies in place that limit immigration enforcement at sensitive locations such as schools and hospitals. These were commonsense policies that were unfortunately rescinded by the current federal administration.

When students, teachers, patients, parents, healthcare workers, and staff members of all kinds are afraid to go to school, work, or access healthcare, the following happens: students cannot focus on learning; students do not get enough food; students miss out on social opportunities; teachers live in a state of worry for their most vulnerable students and their families; staff go unpaid; workplaces are understaffed and this leads to less safe situations for all involved; people who are sick or experiencing health complications face endangering their health even further.

Is this the society you want to enable? A society of unnecessary fear and withholding of foundational elements of humanity like education and health care?

As a teacher myself, and as the friend of many healthcare workers, I know this is unacceptable. I know the toll our current situation is taking on us. Current federal immigration enforcement is not helping our students thrive; it is making us sicker; it is confusing us; it is dividing us; it is endangering us. I know it doesn't need to be this way.

Please pass LD 2106. It is a clear way to help improve the safety, health, well-being, and educational outcomes for Mainers.

Thank you,
Kerry Anderson