

My name is Heidi O'Leary, and I am the Superintendent of MSAD No. 75, and I am joined by Ryan Larsen, Chairman of the MSAD No.75 School Board. We submit this testimony together on behalf of the MSAD No.75 School Board and administration.

Our district serves students from four towns in midcoast Maine: Bowdoin, Bowdoinham, Harpswell, and Topsham. Our shared priority is ensuring that every child feels safe, respected, and supported in our schools.

We support LD 2106 because it provides much-needed clarity and protection for school staff and students. This legislation ensures that officers of U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) cannot enter non-public areas of Maine's schools, libraries, daycares, healthcare facilities, or hospitals without a valid judicial warrant. This allows front office staff to respond confidently and lawfully if approached by federal agents, stating that under Maine law and district policy, entry to non-public areas requires court authorization.

The purpose of LD 2106 is not to obstruct lawful federal activity, but to ensure that access to sensitive learning environments is granted only with proper judicial oversight. In these politically charged times, it is vital that schools remain places of trust, safety, and neutrality. This bill safeguards those principles while respecting the rule of law.

Supporting LD 2106 means affirming that schools are safe spaces for all students to learn, free from fear or uncertainty. It protects the well-being of children, empowers school personnel to follow clear legal procedures, and places decision-making authority appropriately in the hands of a neutral federal judge.

For these reasons, the MSAD No. 75 School Board and Superintendent strongly urge the Committee to issue a favorable report on LD 2106 and move it forward for passage. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Respectfully submitted,

Heidi O'Leary, Ed.D.
Superintendent, MSAD No.75

Ryan Larsen,
Chair of the MSAD No.75 School Board