

Jenny Davis
Belfast
LD 2106

My name is Jenny Davis, and I work as a Nurse Practitioner in primary care in Belfast. I am also a Sexual Assault Forensic Examiner, credentialed in Maine to provide care to adult and child survivors of violence and sexual assault (ME-SAFE A/P). I submit this testimony in support of LD2106 as a SAFE nurse who cares for survivors of sexual assault, domestic violence and trafficking in several Maine emergency departments. Survivors already face incredible barriers to reporting violence and abuse -- barriers like fear, shame and stigma. Those barriers are compounded in abusive relationships and especially in trafficking situations, when an abuser or trafficker maintains power through the threat that if a survivor reports her abuse, she will not be believed and might be arrested. For this reason, it is particularly important that immigration enforcement has no place in Maine hospitals and emergency rooms. ICE presence adds weight to the intimidation tactics of sex traffickers and serial abusers, and deters survivors from seeking medical care and justice. Please support LD2106 to ensure our emergency departments remain places where anyone can seek care after assault, abuse or trafficking.