

Russell Linton

Sullivan

LD 2106

Dear Madam Chair,

I am writing to you regarding LD 2106 An Act to Prohibit the Disclosure of Nonpublic Records Without Proper Judicial Review. As a citizen of the United States who spent part of my career working in the Federal Bureau of Investigation, I regret to say the time has come to provide clear and uncompromising guardrails for federal law enforcement.

The actions of ICE have irrevocably damaged public trust. They have eroded the agency's image so completely even foreign countries are protesting their presence. Domestically, ICE no longer represents an institution dedicated to the security of the country but a retributive paramilitary force targeting immigrants and citizens alike.

The most damning aspect is that this was all clearly orchestrated to be as destructive as possible. From the start, Tom Homan promised to bring "hell" to Boston. The president exclaimed the residents of Chicago "were about to find out why its called the Department of War." And of Minnesota, he declared a day of "retribution and reckoning" were coming.

These are not calls for justice or an attempt to keep the peace as every law enforcement agency in the free world is sworn to uphold. These are words of war. A promise of the chaos we are seeing unfold on our streets.

In every case, the administration has been keen to blame the victims. They have summarily trampled constitutional rights under the color of law. And as we're seeing in the daily court room battles, they have not engaged in good faith communication and participation with our judicial system.

The federal justice system under the executive branch has gone rogue.

I don't say this lightly. This is not hyperbolic. The rhetoric is plain and it is clear the executive has declared our states the enemy and our courts an obstacle to be overcome. Our last defense lies in your hands.

Medical professionals providing care should not have to be complicit in harm to their patients. Educators charged with the welfare of children should not be asked to take part in their removal to for-profit-prisons not subject to congressional oversight.

Public spaces such as libraries do not need to become battlegrounds. This indiscriminate assault on our democratic values and human rights must be curtailed.

There is no such thing as "absolute immunity". Federal forces do not have license to act with impunity. For all the talk of article four and the Supremacy Clause, no federal law can exceed constitutional limits. Search and seizure based on an administrative warrant, or no warrant as the case often seems to be, is in direct violation of the fourth amendment. It is outrageous we need to codify this in state law but this is precisely the craven uncertainty the current administration has sought to sow in our system of governance.

I urge the committee to support this bill. Protect Mainers from this dangerous overreach. History will inevitably expose the atrocities. Do all you can to resist this perversion of justice.

Sincerely,  
Russell Linton