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LD 2106

Senator Carney, Representative Moonen, and members of the Judiciary Committee, I am a middle school teacher in Maine. I am writing in strong support of LD 2106.

Schools exist so children can learn, grow, and feel safe. When fear enters school buildings—fear that attending class could expose a child or their family to immigration enforcement—learning becomes impossible. No child should have to weigh their safety against their right to an education.

As an educator, I see firsthand how emotional safety is essential to academic success. When families are afraid to send their children to school, students lose not only instruction time but also access to meals, counseling, special education services, and trusted adults. The stress and anxiety caused by the threat of ICE activity in or around schools harms children's mental health and undermines the mission of public education.

LD 2106 provides a clear and reasonable safeguard by requiring a valid judicial warrant before immigration enforcement can occur in schools, libraries, healthcare facilities, and other essential public spaces. Just as importantly, it protects educators, healthcare workers, and librarians from being placed in impossible situations where they are forced to make legal decisions outside their role or training.

This bill does not interfere with the rule of law. It ensures due process, protects sensitive personal information, and affirms that schools and similar spaces are not sites of immigration enforcement, but places of care, learning, and community wellbeing.

Maine has long valued fairness, safety, and education. Passing LD 2106 is a concrete way to uphold those values and ensure that all children—regardless of background—can attend school without fear.

Thank you for your time and for considering this testimony. I urge you to vote in favor of LD 2106.