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LD 2106

I am writing in support of LD 2106, An Act to Prohibit the Disclosure of Nonpublic Records Without Proper Judicial Review.

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 policies were built on a commonsense understanding that the importance of people being able to access these locations without fear is a broad matter of public health and in the interest of everyone.

One of the first actions the current federal administration took in office was to end this longstanding policy, while pushing false narratives trying to link immigrants with criminality and public safety. Over the past year, as indiscriminate immigration enforcement has dramatically ramped up in Maine and beyond, Maine's noncitizen residents are living in deep fear and anxiety, afraid to take their children to school, seek healthcare, and more.

Public schools, libraries, daycares, and other institutions in Maine are increasingly becoming less safe due to ICE activity. We are already seeing children being kept home from school to protect them from ICE. Families are living in deep fear and anxiety, afraid to take their children to school, seek healthcare, and more. Keeping ICE out of these public spaces ensures all childrens' health and wellbeing.

From the Immigrant Legal Advocacy Project — “LD 2106 would require ICE to have a valid judicial warrant signed by a judge to conduct enforcement at schools, hospitals and healthcare facilities, daycares, and libraries as well as protect people’s information that might be held at these places. Importantly, the bill also provides guidance and support to teachers, healthcare workers, and other employees at these locations, ensuring they are not put in crisis situations and forced to make individual decisions.”

LD 2106 would protect Maine children, parents, teachers, healthcare workers, and all of us by denying ICE access to schools, healthcare facilities, daycares, and libraries without a valid judicial warrant. This is critical to community health and well being. Schools are places for learning, exploration, and opportunity. Not immigration enforcement.

Join MEEA in taking action so all Maine children feel safe to attend public schools, libraries, daycare, hospitals, and other public spaces. Maine must pass LD 2106 now! No Maine parent should be afraid to send their child to school or take them to the doctor.