

January 27, 2026

Crystal Parritt  
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Director of Childcare Services  
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207-795-4050

RE: LD 2106 – An Act to Protect Maine’s Public Schools, Hospitals, Daycares, and Libraries

Dear Senator Carney, Representative Kuhn, and honorable members of the Judiciary Committee:

For the past 20 years, children, their families, and their care have been entrusted to me. I have had the privilege of working directly in classrooms and now in childcare administration at YWCA Central Maine, where our mission is to eliminate racism and empower women. At the heart of childcare is the responsibility to provide a safe, nurturing learning environment during the most fundamental years of a child’s life.

Learning cannot happen without safety. The very foundation we must provide is a place where children can learn while their families are at work or school, free from fear and disruption. All Mainers have the right to education, food, and stability within schools and childcare settings. The fear of ICE entering these spaces undermines that stability and makes learning difficult—not just for immigrant children, but for *all* children in Maine.

Educators, childcare providers, healthcare workers, and librarians already carry immense responsibility in ensuring safe access to essential services. Now, many are burdened with additional fear and uncertainty due to the lack of clear guidance on how to respond if ICE appears at their workplace. This uncertainty puts both workers and families in an impossible position.

Since the current federal administration began its mass deportation campaign, many immigrant families in Maine have been afraid to leave their homes—to go to work or school, seek

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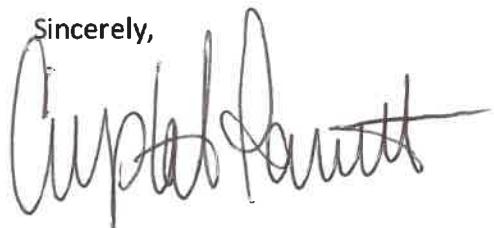
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healthcare, access social services, or attend religious services. This fear directly harms children, disrupts their development, and erodes trust in the very institutions meant to support them.

LD 2016 would provide much-needed clarity and protection for public spaces that should remain safe and accessible to everyone. Schools, childcare centers, hospitals, and libraries must be places of learning, care, and community—not fear. Protecting these spaces ensures that children can learn, families can thrive, and workers can do their jobs without putting themselves or those they serve at risk.

I strongly urge you to support LD 2106 and stand up for the safety, dignity, and well-being of all Maine residents.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Crystal Parritt".

Crystal Parritt  
Director of Childcare Services  
YWCA Central Maine

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LD 2106

Testimony Submission is attached to this form.