

Mira Hotait
Fryeburg
LD 2106

Representative Sato, Senator Rotundo, and members of the Committee on Judiciary. My name is Mira Hotait, and I live in Fryeburg, 04037, and graduated last May from Fryeburg Academy. I am here to speak in support of LD 2106, "An Act to Prohibit the Disclosure of Nonpublic Records Without Proper Judicial Review."

I grew up in the public school system. Despite paying great attention to academics, I always sat the closest to the door, somehow it felt safest to know I'd be the first out of the exit. But still, if I heard a slam, quick footsteps, shouts, door hinges, in the hallway, it never failed to send me into panic. What if all those stories I heard finally culminated in today. What if this Statistics class would be the last that I attend. What if I couldn't run fast enough or act dead enough. What if, today, I join my martyred peers.

But I'm white.

Imagine knowing that that shooter was coming for you specifically, because of your olive, brown, or black skin. That he had been sent by the president for your crime of color. That he might use you as a worm on a fish hook, to catch your parents swimming upstream. That nothing he did would be punishable by law. And that he didn't need to prove anything about you, criminal record or immigration status, to lock you up and send you to a state or country you've never seen. Where you might be shackled to the bare ground. Where you won't see your family. Where people die, shrieks echo on cement, and where journalists and representatives aren't allowed. The number of children killed in school shootings across the US last year was 7. In no way do I wish to minimize that number, which is disgustingly above 0, but in the first month of 2026, 9 people have already met their end at the hands of ICE. These are only the documented cases. In a single month, hundreds of children have been ripped from school desks and car seats and been taken away.

I've tried to understand how anyone can support this. The only excuse I've heard is that you can't expect respect if you don't belong here. But these are children, Maine is a welcome place at its heart, and real Mainers know that it is our character, not where we come from that define us. No one cares if you go to school with clothes covered in car oil, or if your barn roof is falling in. So why should we care about race?

However difficult the Maine Legislature website is to navigate, we know your names, committee members. Don't let them go down in books for letting this bill fall. Passing this bill is a small step in what is a huge injustice, but I urge you to take it.

Thank you.