

Meghan Vigeant
Portland
LD 2106

Dear Senator Carney, Senator Haggan, Senator Talbot Ross, and members of the Committee,

I urge you to support LD 2106 to reassure Maine families, children, and parents that our schools, hospitals, libraries, and daycares are safe spaces, that they will not be targeted indiscriminately there. Right now, children are afraid to go to school. Parents are afraid to take their kids to school. Families are too afraid to get medical services. They are afraid to visit the library. They worry that ICE will be there and--no matter if they are legal citizens, legal immigrants, or undocumented immigrants--that they will be arrested and detained, separated from their families, communities, and the lives they have built here in Maine. ICE should need to prove it has valid reasons for arresting immigrants, rather than arbitrary prejudices. A judicial warrant would help put justice back into the system.

This is not an issue that impacts a small number of Maine residents. There are more than 21,000 U.S. citizen children in Maine who have at least one non-citizen parent.

I am heartbroken as I witness the unjust arrests, detainment, and deportation of law-abiding Mainers. I worry for friends, colleagues, and neighbors. I know families who are too afraid to leave their homes. While LD 2106 won't stop the unjust arrests, it can help make these spaces of critical services safe for all Mainers again.

Every child deserves an education and a safe place to grow and learn in community. Everyone deserves to seek medical care. Everyone deserves to seek out the resources they need at a library. When ICE lurks in these spaces, our society is no longer a safe space for peaceful residents.

Please support LD 2106.

Thank you,
Meghan