

My name is Kimberly Boucher, and I am a resident of Bangor. I am also on board the Maine Multicultural Center, an organization that supports refugees, asylum seekers, and voluntary migrants as they arrive to help them to get settled and become integrated members of our community, strengthen our workforce as drivers of economic growth, and create a diverse cultural mosaic that we all benefit from.

I am also a former Peace Corps volunteer. Over the course of my career, I have been welcomed as a stranger in foreign lands. I have had caring neighbors who helped me to integrate into another community, that patiently supported me as I clumsily adapted to a new culture and struggled to communicate in a new language. In countries in West and East Africa, I have been welcomed by caring community members who took the time to find understanding through language barriers, who fed me, who walked together with me as I found my way. I feel it is my duty to be of service to others in that way as well. Aside from our indigenous community, our ancestors were all strangers here on this land at some point, and that should give us some empathy as we look at this current immigration situation.

I am speaking today in favor of LD2106. Our state needs to ensure that immigrants, people of color and indigenous people who are currently being targeted by the immoral, unethical, and unconstitutional racial profiling by this increased presence of Immigration and Customs Enforcement in our state can feel some measure of safety. This launch of "Operation Catch of the Day" in Maine is not a targeted mission to arrest individuals who have committed any crimes, "The worst of the worst" as this federal administration contests, this is a harmful trawling operation using a big net to ensnare anyone who is non-white and happens to be in the wrong place (anywhere ICE is) at the wrong time. Citizenship status may not protect any of us from garnering the attention of ICE, so this bill is not just something that protects immigrants, it truly will protect all of us. We know what is happening in Minneapolis, St. Paul and other cities and towns around Minnesota. The eye of Sauron has landed in Maine now and we need to act now to protect our neighbors.

LD 2106 would protect Maine's kids, parents, teachers, healthcare workers and all of us by denying ICE access to schools, healthcare facilities, daycare, and libraries without a valid judicial warrant. No one should be fearful of going to school, going to a doctor, accessing a book at the public library. All people should be able to access crucial public services and meet basic human needs without fear.

Immigrants are vital to Maine's overall workforce and economy. When parents don't feel safe sending their kids to school or leaving them at daycare, they can't go to work, can't support their families. I honestly wish this bill could go even further - People should be able to go to work and not fear being detained, not just be able to drop off their kids at school or daycare. They should be able to show up for required immigration hearings

and to provide required paperwork for legal immigration processes that establish and maintain their status without fear. They should be able to go to the grocery store, run errands, and pick up prescriptions without constantly being on the lookout for unmarked vehicles and masked agents.

I don't have all the answers, but I know that as a neighbor and a resident of Bangor I am committed to ensuring that everyone who lives here feels safe and can live a peaceful life as a valued member of community. I will continue to do what I can to protect all my neighbors. I urge all our elected officials to do the same by voting in favor of LD2106.

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LD 2106