

LD 2106 Written Testimony from Annika Angerman RN, BSN

My name is Annika Angerman. I am a registered nurse, and I work at Maine Medical Center-Portland. I moved to Maine this past summer from Minnesota. I grew up in southeastern Minnesota and then lived and went to college in Minneapolis. Both Maine and Minnesota have very special places in my heart. I have come to love Maine and its vibrant, diverse community. I see so much of the best of Minnesota present in the people, places, and community in Maine.

Everyday as a nurse, I work closely with the people from Maine, helping them, healing them, supporting them, and advocating for them in every way I can. I find it is my responsibility to show up for them in and outside of the hospital. Advocating for LD 2106 is my next step in achieving this goal. Hearing the horrific things that have happened in Minnesota from my family and friends who still live there has caused significant grief and fear for me, those I love, and the people I care for. I desperately want to prevent what is happening in Minnesota from escalating here in Maine. For both of my homes, old and new, this bill is incredibly important.

I believe that it is a fundamental human right for everyone to receive healthcare, no matter their immigration status. There are already enough barriers in place for people across the United States, ICE does not need to be another one. ICE is terrorizing people, kidnapping them from their homes, from the street, and from their places of employment. They have no place in our state, let alone a hospital or a school. My patients are already dealing with life altering events and sicknesses, they should not have to worry about violence from our government on top of that. A hospital is for healing, ICE has no place there.

Not only does this impact my patients, but my coworkers as well. Multiple staff have called out of work over the last week due to fear for themselves and their families. They no longer feel safe in their place of employment. This has significantly impacted the quality of care we are able to deliver. My coworkers are afraid to leave our unit, to bring a patient down to the lobby, or get food from the cafeteria, all out of fear of being taken. This is outrageous, unfair, and simply, not okay. All people deserve the freedom of healing and working to provide for their families. ICE is directly preventing this with their actions.

Through every tragedy, sickness, world pandemic and more, healthcare workers have shown up for their patients and communities. It is now time for the government to show up for them and for the people they care for.

Sincerely,
Annika Angerman

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Portland
LD 2106

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