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LD 2106

Senator Carney, Representative Kuhn and Honorable Members of the Judiciary Committee:

I am writing in whole-hearted support of LD 2106. I am writing from my experience as an occupational therapist working in public schools.

I am horrified at the fear reverberating through my community, and the losses endured by immigrant, refugee and asylum seeking families.

As an educator, I am very worried that students are unable to access education because of threats to their safety.

Preventing access to education based on race and ethnicity violates our core commitments to equal opportunity and Title VII of the 1964 Civil Rights Act. LD 2106 would help us create some clarity about our shared civil rights and a stronger plan to maintain safety in schools.

I have nightmares about armed agents storming into my classroom. I am committed to cultivating welcoming and belonging spaces for all students. However, I am not trained in the level of de-escalation needed if masked men with guns arrive. What would you have me do?

LD 2106 creates zones for a safer public life and opportunities to reconcile and heal.

Despite my personal fears, my hope is that you unanimously and joyfully pass LD 2106 and collectively reflect a shared value of civil, constitutional and human rights mattering more than partisan divides or gamesmanship.