

LD 2106: An Act to Prohibit the Disclosure of Nonpublic Records Without Proper Judicial Review

Public Hearing Date: 01/29/2026 at 1pm.

Dear Senator Anne Carney and Representative Amy Kuhn and honorable members of the Judiciary Committee, my name is Saras Yerlig and I am a resident of Portland. I am writing in support of LD 2106, An Act to Prohibit the Disclosure of Nonpublic Records Without Proper Judicial Review. This bill will protect information about the immigration status of our community members and would also prevent ICE from entering schools, libraries, and hospitals unless there is a valid judicial warrant.

As a former preschool teacher and a Portland public schools volunteer, I have had the privilege of helping and witnessing children learn, grow and thrive in educational environments. As part of my training I learned about the importance of safety and connection in order for learning to be possible. Access to education and a safe place to learn should be something all families can count on. However, as we have seen in these past few weeks especially, schools and other public places such as libraries and hospitals are no longer safe places for immigrant children and families.

The current administration's actions involving immigration enforcement is creating high levels of fear and disruption in the lives of our immigrant families. We had over 150 students absent from school at my local elementary school last Friday due to the threat of ICE. This lack of safety and high level of fear is unconscionable and ICE's actions including deportation, family separation, lack of due process, and detaining people in terrible conditions are deeply inhumane. We must put a stop to this in any way we can and this bill would be a step in the right direction.

I am proud to live in a city that has welcomed refugees and has thriving immigrant communities, and I am devastated that these residents are now living with the very real and terrifying threat of violence and deportation. I want Maine to be a state that prioritizes the safety of our most vulnerable community members. By voting yes for LD 2106, we will ensure that schools, hospitals and libraries can remain the safe places they are meant to be.

For these reasons, I urge the Committee to vote Ought to Pass on LD 2106, An Act to Prohibit the Disclosure of Nonpublic Records Without Proper Judicial Review. Thank you for your time hearing and reading testimony and for your effort to ensure the safety of our immigrant communities.

Saras Yerlig
Portland
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