

Suzanne Stone
Belfast
LD 2106

Good afternoon, Senator Carney, Representative Kuhn, and Members of the Judiciary Committee,

My name is Suzanne Stone and I am a resident of Belfast, Maine.

I am writing today in support of LD 2106, which would restrict federal immigration enforcement from entering hospitals, libraries, daycares, and schools without a judicial warrant. These places serve as crucial resources for thousands of individuals and families in our state. Yet many of our neighbors are too fearful to access these spaces because of the recent indiscriminate, violent actions of ICE. By restricting ICE's access to these community places, we can ensure that everyone can use these important services without being afraid.

As an educator, I am concerned for my students, especially those at most risk of violence & abduction by ICE. There is fear in the classroom among my students, fear for themselves, their families & their friends. They know ICE is acting unlawfully & violently around this country. Some of my students are not even coming into the school for fear for their lives. All children have a right to education in this country & schools should be safe spaces for learning & growing, along with hospitals where many people receive aid, in libraries that not only offer books, computers & resources, but also a warm place to be in our cold winters, as well as daycare facilities. If ICE is really arresting criminals (which we are seeing as a nation they really are not), these young children at daycare facilities should not be being terrorized. These all MUST be safe spaces in our communities.

We've seen online, in the media, and in our own lives that healthcare providers, teachers, and caregivers feel unsafe going to work, families are afraid to send their children to school, and people are afraid to seek medical care they need. These disruptions harm the public health and well-being of our entire community. LD 2106 would prohibiting ICE from accessing these universal locations that people rely on to meet their basic needs, thereby creating some safe spaces in our communities.

As well, if our unhoused neighbors are afraid to use such locations as libraries & hospitals, they may stay outside or avoid treatment — putting their lives at risk. LD 2106 could remove a barrier to potentially life-saving services for individuals experiencing homelessness and poverty.

Please support LD 2106, and ensure that Maine's schools, libraries, healthcare centers, and daycares are a safe place for all who need them.

Thank you for your time and consideration.