

Honorable members of the Judiciary Committee, I am sharing my testimony today in support of LD 2106, An Act to Prohibit the Disclosure of Nonpublic Records Without Proper Judicial Review. If I go to the website for the US Immigration and Customs Enforcement website I can find their mission statement which is as follows, "Mission: Protect America through criminal investigations and enforcing immigration laws to preserve national security and public safety." When President Trump rescinded the DHS Directive- Enforcement Actions in or Near Protected Areas last January I wondered how this could possibly help ICE accomplish their mission. These protected areas were schools (k-12 and colleges), medical/ mental health facilities, places of worship, funerals, weddings, and child-care locations. We are not better as people, as communities, and a country, when we limit access to child-care, education, healthcare, and freedom of worship. We are not "protecting America" when large sections of the population are afraid to let their children attend school, leave the house to go to a doctors appointment, or attend church; this is not the type of freedom currency that is the bread and butter of United States.

It is my opinion that there are any number of ways ICE agents can conduct their criminal investigations and enforce immigration- if they are unable to have access to schools, healthcare facilities, and places of worship- they can be anywhere else! However, each morning when I send my child to school- there is only one school at which he is registered, only one classroom where he is a member of a small community of children who are learning together, practicing being kind and helpful and supportive to each other. ICE does not need access to my child's school. If someone has a medical procedure or a doctors appointment they can only go to one single specific location- at a previously planned time with a specific provider- we all know the perils of trying to secure a doctors appointment! Let us leave healthcare facilities to the caregivers who dedicate their lives to serving and caring for our population. Places of worship should be sacred to us as Americans! It is one of the first principles of our country- religious freedom. Let people worship who and how they may. Each individual who is religious typically has one place of worship- one congregation they regularly meet with. In contrast- ICE has the rest of the country where they can enforce immigration.

We are already in a unique and perilous situation as a state because all of the state is within 100 miles of a border, because of this we already lose many of our fourth amendment rights. Let us try to protect what we can by supporting LD 2106. Let us protect these sensitive locations for our communities, for the people in them who have fear and uncertainty for the future, let us do what we can to help make this one less thing have to feel fearful about. Thank you for your time.