

Personal Testimony for LD 2106

January 27, 2026

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

Dear Senator Carney, Representative Kuhn, and Members of the Judiciary Committee,

My name is Sonya Durney. I am a library worker who has seen firsthand the life-changing impact of library services on Maine's newest citizens.

In my years working in public libraries, some of my most profound moments involved supporting New Mainers. I have had the distinct honor of leading the Pledge of Allegiance at a citizenship ceremony before 300 people. I watched with immense pride as those individuals, now our fellow Americans, immediately registered to vote with the League of Women Voters. That transition—from seeker to citizen—often happens within the four walls of a library.

Throughout my career, I have focused on building strategic partnerships to ensure libraries are the most trusted organizations in our communities. I worked closely with United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) to establish "Immigration Corners" in our libraries, providing multilingual educational materials and the complex legal paperwork required to navigate the federal immigration process.

I have worked side-by-side with New Mainers in resume-writing workshops, and there is no greater professional joy than when a library patron returns to the library specifically to tell you, "I got the job."

However, this essential work relies entirely on trust. If a patron fears that the record of their digital search for immigration forms or their appointment with a social worker can be disclosed to law enforcement without a judicial warrant, that trust evaporates. When trust is lost, our neighbors stop coming to us for help. They stop seeking the very resources—jobs, literacy, and legal information—that allow them to integrate and thrive in Maine.

LD 2106 is critical because it protects the library's sanctity as a "safe haven." By requiring proper judicial review for the disclosure of nonpublic records, you are protecting the vulnerable people I have spent my career serving. You are ensuring that the library remains a place of opportunity, not surveillance.

I respectfully urge you to vote **Ought to Pass** on LD 2106.

Sincerely,

Sonya Durney, Founder, Durney Research Advocacy and Strategy LLC, Waterboro, Maine