

Casey Rogers
South Portland
LD 2106

To Senator Carney, Representative Kuhn, and Members of the Judiciary Committee,
My name is Casey Rogers, I am a resident of South Portland and work as a social worker at a local healthcare facility. I am writing you today in support of LD 2106: An Act to Prohibit the Disclosure of Nonpublic Records Without Proper Judicial Review. I would also like to thank you for the prompt proposal and consideration of LD 2106 in response to the increase in federal immigration enforcement activity in our state.

As I'm sure you well know, for a very long time, there had been policies in place limiting immigration enforcement activities at sensitive locations, including schools, libraries and healthcare facilities. These policies were driven by an understanding and agreement across party lines that access to these locations and resources are critical to maintaining healthy communities and should be accessed without fear. Unfortunately, as we also know, these long-standing policies were eliminated under the current administration. This change, as part of the administration's overall mass deportation agenda, in conjunction with the recent increase of immigration enforcement activity in Maine, worries me greatly for the health and safety of our communities. I worry that out of fear for safety, children will stay home from school, hindering their education and development. Individuals needing resources will not seek information out at their local libraries, causing prolonged suffering. Individuals experiencing medical concerns will not seek care, leading to conditions becoming irreversibly worse.

Working in healthcare, I and my colleagues see first hand many heartbreaking situations that stem from lack of access to resources, access to education and access to preventative healthcare services. We see individuals who have delayed coming in for care, and in some instances, folks who come too late. There are unfortunately many barriers that we could discuss when it comes to accessing resources, education and healthcare in our state and country, but today, our focus is on taking one of those barriers away. Today we can choose to invest in the health of our state by ensuring that all Mainers feel safe to access these critical locations and resources in our community. With this, I urge the committee to support LD 2106 and vote Ought to Pass. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Casey Rogers, LCSW