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Chair, Members of the Committee:

I respectfully submit this written testimony in support of H.P. 1421, an emergency bill designed to protect the privacy and autonomy of Maine's schools, health care facilities, child care providers, libraries, and other community institutions by ensuring that nonpublic records and spaces are not accessed by immigration enforcement without proper judicial oversight. [REDACTED]

This legislation rightly acknowledges the legitimate fear and uncertainty felt by many residents — especially immigrants, families, and service providers — when federal enforcement actions intersect with essential community spaces. By requiring judicial review for access to nonpublic areas and records, the bill strengthens transparency and the rule of law, while safeguarding constitutional protections and public trust in vital institutions. [REDACTED]

WHY SUPPORT H.P. 1421

1. Upholding Due Process and Privacy Rights

H.P. 1421 affirms that voluntary consent for enforcement access must be paired with proper judicial authorization, protecting individuals' rights in schools, health care settings, child care environments, and public libraries. This protection is crucial to prevent overreach that could undermine civil liberties and personal privacy. [REDACTED]

2. Protecting Community Trust and Public Safety

Community institutions serve people of all backgrounds. When families, patients, and students fear that participation in everyday life could expose them or their loved ones to unreviewed enforcement actions, they withdraw from necessary services. H.P. 1421 helps ensure that public safety does not come at the expense of community safety and trust. [REDACTED]

3. Preventing Federal Overreach and Preserving State Authority

This bill acknowledges that while federal law enforcement has its place, state and local entities must retain authority to set reasonable boundaries that respect individual rights and maintain public welfare. H.P. 1421 appropriately limits voluntary cooperation that exceeds these bounds without proper legal process. [REDACTED]

CALL FOR A STATE OF EMERGENCY DECLARATION

The emergency preamble in H.P. 1421 recognizes that recent immigration law enforcement activity in Maine has raised urgent questions for educators, health care workers, child care providers, and families. [REDACTED]

I urge the Legislature to affirm this emergency finding and consider passing a concurrent resolution declaring a statewide state of emergency on the grounds that:

- There exists a community crisis of confidence in public institutions due to fear of unregulated enforcement actions;
- Unchecked enforcement risks authoritarian encroachment on civil liberties, chilling free participation in public life by immigrants and citizens alike;
- A coordinated legislative response — elevated by an emergency declaration — is necessary to clarify rights, protect access to services, and stabilize community trust.

Such a declaration would send a strong message that Maine values the constitutional rights of all residents, resists undue federal intrusion, and stands firm in protecting communities from practices that undermine due process and the rule of law.

H.P. 1421 is not only a thoughtful, balanced step toward protecting privacy and process — it is a critical safeguard for Maine's communities in the face of encroaching federal enforcement that can feel arbitrary and heavy-handed. I strongly support this bill and urge the Judiciary Committee and the full Legislature to enact it with the emergency clause intact.

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully submitted,
Jono Anzalone