

Tals Jacobs
Lewiston
LD 2106

Maine, "The Way Life Should Be." One of my greatest joys living in Maine, is the people, the community, the way we care for one another. It is a place I have always felt accepted and safe. However, these past weeks I have seen my community, one often filled with the sound of chatter and laughter and people catching up with one another on the street, forced into a place of fear with the presence of ICE. People can't go to school, people can't go to work, people can't make their volunteer shifts to take care of their community. The streets are empty, quiet, and far from safe. We as a nation have seen ICE murder now on two counts, kidnap, and abuse. One's legal status is irrelevant to them, and even if it was, nothing could justify their actions. Their presence here is truly terrifying. Here is home to some of the hardest working, most deeply caring, community orientated people I know. We have already been through so much and to see our community faced with another threat of violence is both heartbreaking and unacceptable. This is not the way life should be. Passing LD 2106 is a solidification of Maine's commitment to taking care of our neighbors and the greater world. It is our values of care and community put into action. It serves Maine and strengthens all of our communities when: All of Maine's children can receive an education, food, and stability at school; All Maine residents can seek help when they're sick or injured and share public health information; Maine parents can leave their children in a safe place while at work; Maine workers can go to work because they can safely send their children to school or daycare; All Maine people can seek information, referrals, and services at libraries; Maine's teachers, healthcare workers, daycare workers, and librarians do not feel afraid to report to work and do their essential jobs; and Maine's teachers, healthcare workers, daycare workers, and librarians have clear information from the state about what to do if ICE appears. In Maine, we show up for each other. Let's do so now, when it matters more than ever, by passing LD 2106.