

January 28, 2026

My name is Jessica Smith, I'm a resident of Augusta, and I am writing to testify my strong support for LD 2106 An Act to Prohibit the Disclosure of Nonpublic Records Without Proper Judicial Review.

As I write this, the federal government is blatantly lying to cover up the unjustifiable murder of two Americans by ICE. The murder of Renee Good and Alex Pretti are not ICE's only casualties. Many people are afraid to access necessary and sometimes life-saving medical treatment out of fear they or a family member will be arrested by ICE.

This weekend, my good friend reached out to me about their neighbor who was nearing the end of his battle with cancer. Their neighbor was an immigrant living with his family and needed medical attention because he was in severe pain. He feared a trip to the hospital would result in himself or a family member being detained by ICE. Cancer is an agonizingly painful and slow death, as I am sure most people are aware, and I can not imagine the courage it takes to put yourself through that, nor can I imagine how traumatic it would be to watch someone you love die without any proper end of life care.

Luckily, my friend was able to arrange a small group of people to escort this individual to the hospital. However, I wonder how many people are in similar circumstances to him but don't have the community support. I am ashamed that someone in my country is so fearful of seeking medical care.

One of the first actions by the Trump administration was to remove a federal policy that prohibited ICE activities at schools and hospitals. It was a humane policy that was supported by administrations on both sides of the isle before it was removed. All people deserve access to medical care without fearing for their safety and every child deserves to attend school. We have over 21,000 US citizen children in this state who have a non-citizen parent. How are these children supposed to focus on school when ICE might be waiting outside to arrest their parent?

Our immigrant population is willing to die to protect their families, all because they believe this country will provide a better future for their children. Meanwhile, their children are expected to attend school traumatized and frightened. Our country is in a crisis, and our leaders in the Maine legislature have a duty to do everything they can to protect **ALL** Mainers from ICE's despicable tactics.