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LD 2106

My name is Amelia Nadilo and I am here today to testify in strong support of LD 2106.

I'm supporting this bill because we are witnessing profound harm and fear across our country, and now here in Maine. Immigration enforcement activity in Maine has intensified and it is harming Maine families and Maine children.

In recent weeks, I've heard from educators and community members that children in local schools are afraid to go to and from school. Some families are keeping their children home altogether, even when they are here legally, because they are afraid of being detained. Children are watching their classmates disappear from school without explanation.

Across the country, people, including immigrants with legal status and U.S. citizens, have been detained, separated from their families, or denied due process. Whether or not someone agrees with federal immigration policy, no one should feel afraid to go to the grocery store, attend school, visit a hospital, or show up to a required immigration appointment.

This fear didn't appear out of nowhere. One of the Trump administration's first actions was to eliminate a longstanding federal policy that was upheld for decades by both Democratic and Republican administrations which limited immigration enforcement at sensitive places like schools and hospitals. That policy existed for a simple reason: people must be able to access education, healthcare, and basic services without fear.

Here in Maine, those protections are gone. And with ICE operations now underway, the harm is escalating. There are more than 21,000 U.S. citizen children in Maine who have at least one non-citizen parent. When enforcement reaches into schools, healthcare facilities, daycares, and libraries, it creates trauma, instability, and long-term harm to children, regardless of immigration status.

LD 2106 does not interfere with federal law. What it does is reaffirm basic constitutional principles. To enter non-public areas, law enforcement must present a valid judicial warrant or receive voluntary consent. This bill makes clear that Maine will not permit voluntary consent for immigration enforcement at these sensitive locations without judicial review. It also limits the voluntary sharing of nonpublic information unless legally required.

LD 2106 protects children, families, educators, healthcare workers, and the broader public interest. It supports public health, education, workplace stability, and constitutional rights, all core concerns of this Committee.

I urge you to vote ought to pass on LD 2106. Thank you for your time and consideration.