

Ayla Smith
Scarborough
LD 2106

My name is Ayla Smith and I am a citizen of Scarborough, ME. The date of the public hearing is Thursday, January 29, 2026. I am testifying in support of LD 2106 - An Act to Prohibit the Disclosure of Nonpublic Records Without Proper Judicial Review. I am a student in high school, and I believe that my peers and fellow citizens should feel safe in their communities, regardless of immigration status. LD 2106 would ease some of the anxiety surrounding ICE, which I know many of my friends and peers (including myself) carry around on a daily basis, by legally ensuring that valid judicial warrant is necessary before ICE can conduct immigration enforcement in schools and other public spaces in Maine. Immigration status aside, ICE is an intimidating and threatening presence in Maine that deeply impacts its citizens, especially BIPOC individuals; students of color should not have to worry about their safety, especially not while inside a learning environment. I have a lot of friends whose family are immigrants, or who are immigrants themselves, and I have seen and felt first hand the emotional turmoil that ICE's activity has caused. As a person of color, I've started to feel nervous that my physical appearance will draw assumptions and lead to unwanted interactions with immigration enforcement officers, despite the fact that I am a U.S. citizen. I firmly believe that no one should be intimidated to feel like they do not belong in their own home, regardless of the route by which they took to make it there. LD 2106, while it will not rid Maine of ICE's threatening presence, will provide a layer of comfort in these troubling times and will demonstrate Maine's commitment to the well-being of its citizens. Thank you for your time and consideration.