



Senator Carney, Representative Kuhn, and honorable members of the Judiciary Committee, my name is Cate Blackford. I am the public policy director of the Maine People's Alliance. Our 32,000 members are committed to creating a world where everyone has what they need, contributes what they can, and no one is left behind. Thank you for the opportunity today to speak to you on behalf of LD 2106, a bill that speaks directly to this mission.

There are important places we all access every day, places that have beautiful and sometimes challenging memories. When I enter a hospital, I can't help think about a past medical emergency but also about leaving with my newborn babies. When I go to the school, it brings back memories of teen angst and teachers who saw the best in me. The smell of a library always makes me feel at home, thanks to countless hours after school waiting for my mom to finish work. Walking into the cheerful cozy space of a preschool brings back the joy and awe of my daughters greeting me at the end of a long day. These are places we all rely on, to keep us healthy and whole, to keep our kids safe and prepare them for the world.

That is why, for so long, it was the law of the land that these hospitals, schools, libraries and day cares, were safe, where you didn't have to worry that someone from immigration would use them for enforcement. This longstanding and commonsense policy helped ensure that all people could access crucial public services and and connect with their community.

This past year, we have seen the federal government operating in a new way, flaunting constitutional rights in "blue" cities and states. [The Vice President himself gave a speech obfuscating the difference between an administrative warrant and a judicial warrant.](#)<sup>1</sup> We shouldn't need legislation to provide clarity on our constitutional rights, but it is clear that right now we do.

LD 2106 would provide important guidance to workers at these places that, in Maine, immigration officers are prohibited from entering these locations or collecting information on people without a valid judicial warrant, and workers at these places are not allowed to provide voluntary consent to all immigration officers to enter or provide information they have about Maine residents.

Under the current federal administration, immigration enforcement is broad and indiscriminate, targeting immigrant communities in general and creating a public health crisis that includes extreme fear and trauma, as well as actual family separation, detention in inhumane conditions, and deportation to life-threatening circumstances.<sup>2</sup> There is much that we wish the state could

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<sup>1</sup><https://www.forbes.com/sites/antoniopequenoiv/2026/01/22/vance-defends-ice-memo-telling-agents-they-can-raid-homes-without-a-judges-warrant/>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.npr.org/2025/09/24/nx-s1-5552752/the-conditions-in-ice-detention-centers>



# Maine People's Alliance

do to protect our communities from federal immigration and customs enforcement. Maine cannot defund ICE, or ban it from our state. But we can protect these critical public spaces from enforcement.

If every Mainer cannot access hospitals, schools, child care, and libraries, how can we ever hope that they will have what they need, contribute what they can, and no one is left behind?

Others today have and will speak to why these protections are so important, to our health, our economy, our kids' learning, and the strength of our communities. I will leave you with two stories from our staff about the intense harm this indiscriminate enforcement is having.

"My husband is an immigrant and we are expecting our first child in May. He has a green card but it doesn't mean I don't have concerns about his wellbeing and safety when he's traveling to work or running errands, especially hearing the stories from across the state. I worry about my future child's safety as he'll go into daycare, for my husband when he goes to pick up our child, and for the safety of so many others. We should be experiencing the happiest moments of our life as our family expands, but the presence of ICE in our communities is clouding that moment and how I picture us growing as a family together."

"I have been in shut down for one week not because I'm not a citizen but, because I am afraid of being targeted by ICE based on the color of my skin. Many of my neighbors have been in similar situations. Any time my family members or any member of my community calls me, I am always wary that something may have happened to them. It has been great to see so many neighbors and community members come together to support immigrant neighbors however, in the same breath it has been sad to see so many unjustified deaths happening to people in other states. All the horrible actions happening to people all over the state and country only leave me to think that it is only a matter of time before it hits home for me. I recently have had to switch therapists because a therapist of mine said I should be used to this since this happens in so many other parts of the world. I responded that I came to the U.S. very young and so the only type of Maine I know is the Maine that has no masked agents with guns terrorizing civilians based on their skin color. This is not normal and as humans we should not normalize this in any way for any person."

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<https://www.pbs.org/newshour/nation/were-being-terrorized-what-mainers-are-seeing-as-ice-launches-operation-in-the-state>