

Senator Anne Carney, Representative Amy Kuhn and honorable members of the Joint Standing Judiciary Committee, my name is Patty Kidder, and I live in Springvale, part of the city of Sanford. I am writing you today to testify in favor of LD 2106, "An Act to Prohibit the Disclosure of Nonpublic Records Without Proper Judicial Review".

For decades, both Republican and Democratic federal administrations have had policies in place that limit immigration enforcement at sensitive locations such as public schools and hospitals. These policies were built on a commonsense understanding that the importance of people being able to access these locations without fear is a matter of overall public health and in the interest of everyone.

One of the first actions the current federal administration took in office was to end this longstanding policy. As broad and indiscriminate ICE activity has dramatically ramped up in Maine and beyond, **Maine's asylum seekers (who are here LEGALLY) are living in deep fear and anxiety, scared to leave their homes, go to work, take their children to school, seek healthcare, and more.**

LD 2106 would require ICE to have a valid judicial warrant signed by a judge to conduct enforcement at schools, hospitals and healthcare facilities, daycares, and libraries as well as protect people's information that might be held at these places. Importantly, the bill also provides guidance and support to teachers, healthcare workers, and other employees at these locations, ensuring they are not put in crisis situations and forced to make individual decisions.

As a person of faith, I am a long-time member of the Sanford Unitarian Universalist Church, and UU's believe in the inherent worth and dignity of every human being and compassion in human relations and what ICE is doing is against everything WE Believe. We helped the asylum seekers when they arrived and now we are horrified to hear of some of them being picked up and detained when they have done nothing wrong and everything legally. This is not right!

We have asked our federal government to stop the insanity and they are giving ICE more money so it is clear to me that it is going to be up to US in Maine to protect our residents from the terror ICE is inflicting on them. I equal ICE to the SS (Secret Service) in WWII that were killing all of the Jewish people. We need safe places – places where everyone has SANCTUARY and their personal private records can NOT be accessed by ICE.

My 5 year old grandson is afraid that he might not see his friends at Pre-School again because of the increase of ICE presence in our city. All I can tell him is that I will keep trying to WAKE-UP everyone to the extreme danger that is happening all around us as the current federal administration wants us to all be afraid and hate each other.

Please do whatever you can to stop the terror and vote LD 2106 Ought to Pass. It's a good start but I wish you could add CHURCHES to the list. I confess I thought churches were sanctuaries but I found out that we have to put up a sign that says Private on the door and it is only good for that room. That isn't right! The whole building s/b Sanctuary. Thank you for your time and service.

Patricia E. Kidder