

Jane Herbert
Damariscotta
LD 2106

testimony for LD 2106

An Act to Prohibit the Disclosure of Nonpublic Records Without Proper Judicial Review

Judiciary Committee – Public Hearing

Date of Hearing: January 29, 2026 1:00PM

Position: In Support

Dear Chair, Vice-Chair, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Jane Herbert, and I reside in Damariscotta, Maine. I am submitting this testimony in support of LD 2106 because ensuring that nonpublic records cannot be disclosed without proper judicial review is essential to protect the health, safety, and education of individuals and families across our state.

This bill would create necessary safeguards against the release of sensitive information without oversight. Such protections are especially important for communities with mixed immigration status and those who already face systemic barriers to accessing basic services.

Fear of unauthorized disclosure of nonpublic records can deter people from seeking routine and essential services — including health care, preventive medical appointments, mental health support, and educational resources — out of fear of harassment, enforcement actions, or even deportation. When families feel unsafe accessing these services, the consequences extend beyond individuals to our broader communities.

For children and students, fear of information sharing can lead to school avoidance and disrupt critical learning and development.

For parents and caregivers, reluctance to pursue health care — including vaccinations and preventive care — can result in delayed diagnoses and poorer long-term outcomes.

By requiring proper judicial review before sensitive information is disclosed, LD 2106 helps build trust between residents and the institutions meant to serve and protect them. This trust directly supports improved public health outcomes and equitable access to education without fear of reprisal.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge the Committee to support LD 2106.

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,
Jane Herbert
Damariscotta, Maine