

Susan Brown
Richmond
LD 2106

Good afternoon, thank you for reading my testimony for LD 2106. Your open mind and willingness to hear the people is appreciated.

It is absolutely vital that we do not allow ICE to invade the spaces that host our most vulnerable populations. Children, students, patients, and patrons should not live in fear of ICE while attempting to access the resources they need. It is imperative that daycares, schools, hospitals, and libraries be compelled to turn ICE away without a judicial warrant.

This was the world that we knew for many years— we as a society understood that ICE should not disrupt medical care or education. We as a society understood that children should worry about sharing, that children should be protected at all costs. That people accessing libraries need the quiet space for solace, and to connect with humanity through reading. Yet, in this past year the Federal Government decided that we don't need to protect our neighbors, our colleagues, our children. They revoked the protections previously set in place. Today, I urge you to implement LD 2106 in this great state in an attempt to protect all of our residents.

A little over two weeks ago I watched a woman named Renee Good get murdered by ICE. I still haven't been able to get her last words out of my head "I am not mad at you dude" but even more so his own last words to her: "Fucking Bitch". He said it with such disdain that there is no question that he killed her, and not out of self defense. Immediately after this shocking incident a man who identified himself as a physician offered to render aid, yelling out "I am a physician" the ICE agents response? "I don't care". She had a pulse for at least 8 minutes afterward, and those ICE agents let her die alone. Today I watched a man get wrestled to the ground by masked men, beaten, and then shot 10 times, another murder in broad daylight. From one angle one of these "officers" appeared to be clapping while this man was being shot. I have watched a mother achingly recall resuscitating her child after tear gas was discharged into their car. I have watched ICE use a 5-year-old child as bait, then listened to school personnel's testimony that there were other family members that were capable, willing, and able to care for the child, yet he was detained anyway. I have listened to the screams of people as they have been detained, in our very own communities. The story of a man who was asphyxiated in a detention in El Paso- the Medical Examiner ruled that his death was a homicide. The stories of mothers, aspiring corrections officers, college students, sons, daughters, and every day people just trying to make a better life for themselves echoing in my head. As I sit here and write this, I feel a mix of rage, overwhelming sadness, and bewilderment. I cannot believe how far we have fallen.

As a mother I cannot imagine the fear of sending my child to school and not knowing if masked men will be waiting outside to instill fear and intimidation. Or that some school children who learned hate from their parents would taunt them that ICE is coming for them and their family. I cannot imagine the fear of a child that their parents have been taken and then they come home to nothing, an empty house, a home that no longer exists. All for the crime of believing in and living the American Dream.

As a nurse my heart breaks for Alex Pretti who was murdered while trying to help another. I have seen the incident from at least 4 angles and I cannot see that he ever drew his weapon. Those "officers" discharged their weapons at least 10 times, how is that self-defense? I, like, most nurses are part of this profession due to our deep desire to help others and what I saw was just that; someone trying to help a fellow human. He was not only a nurse, but an ICU nurse at the VA caring for our nation's heroes. A life lost too soon at the hands of officers who know they will not face accountability. I fear for the patients that are delaying treatment due to fears that ICE may be present in hospitals. I fear for the patients in detention that are not getting proper medical care

and support. I fear for all of my fellow humans who are not being treated with the dignity they deserve. This truly saddens me.

As a nurse, it is my duty to protect and care for my patients. I would like to have the law on my side. LD 2106 makes the law clear and concise—it enables myself and other healthcare professionals to keep our patients safe. Requiring information be obtained via judicial warrant allows us to stay on the right side of history.

Today, the Maine State Legislature is being given an opportunity to protect the people of Maine, I urge you to take it.