

Kelsey Conley
Bangor
LD 2106

As one of the voices that you pledged to represent, I write to demand that LD 2106 be passed in order to place prudent restraints on immigration enforcement actions in libraries, daycares, hospitals, schools, and other spaces named in the bill. ICE has turned its back on its purpose to ensure the safety of our country and become a threat to public safety.

The Immigration and Customs Enforcement agency has a duty to ensure safe and legal immigration processes but instead they are indiscriminately kidnapping anyone who doesn't fit their narrative of who an American is, while assaulting and even murdering those who dare to question them. There is no place in our communities for their violent behavior or subversive tactics. People are dying, families are being torn asunder, this is a matter of emergent nature. This bill needs to be implemented as soon as possible. The attorney general needs to act before 2027. I urge the legislators to pass this bill and additional bills to prevent further harm by ICE.

We need to put a stop to this woefully undertrained, unrestrained task force. There should never be government agents operating anonymously and with impunity. That the government is allowing a task force like ICE to wear masks hiding their identity from the people who pay their salaries is inexcusable. The lack of transparency under which they operate amounts to a secret police force. I urge the legislature to ban ICE agents from wearing masks while on duty in our state. Their violent actions show that they either have no training or no respect for training to handle civil matters like undocumented community members, civilly. As someone who handles crisis situations professionally, it is clear to me that these agents by and large do not have the emotional regulation, distress tolerance, or verbal deescalation skills to meet the objectives of the job in which they were so hastily hired. They need to be off the streets immediately.

As representatives of the people, you have the responsibility to hold ICE accountable for these abuses of power, to demand answers and most importantly to protect the safety of every person that you represent. ICE was created under the pretense of national security but today they are a national threat that is weakening our country. Maine should hold strong to the values of this country, refuse any cooperation with the extremist organization that ICE has become, and demand that the entire force be shutdown and replaced with an immigration division free of bias and brutality.

Thank you for your time.