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LD 2106

Senator Carney, Representative Kuhn, and Members of the Judiciary Committee,

I am writing today to urge you to support LD 2106, which would restrict federal immigration enforcement from entering hospitals, libraries, daycares, and schools without a judicial warrant. These places serve as critical resources for every child and family in our state, many of whom are now too afraid to access these spaces because of the recent indiscriminate, and unlawful activity of ICE.

I live near an elementary school. Last Thursday morning during school drop off, the neighborhood was inundated with ICE, staging across several parking lots all 1 - 2 blocks away from the school, waiting for parents after they dropped off their kids. It has shook our entire neighborhood. Education isn't the only sector impacted by this, we have seen ICE waiting outside of churches, hospitals, warming shelters, parking lots during the snow ban, BIPOC owned businesses and more.

The news that they are actively detaining people who are here legally spread quickly. Families are afraid to bring their kids to school, afraid to go to the doctor, afraid to get food and medicine and many of them are making the choice not to. Imagine waking up every day and choosing between having food and being unlawfully detained; choosing between getting an education and being unlawfully detained; choosing between getting health care and being unlawfully detained. Not only are people not engaging in these vital services, the organizations themselves are short on essential staff who feel unsafe coming to work, leaving people without income and the people who are able to use those resources underserved.

This past week I have met a father whose autistic daughter lost all of her support professionals overnight, a family who had been without food for 3 days, another family who was so scared they packed up and left in the middle of the night and a woman whose neighbors 5 year old child rolled up his sleeve and asked his parents if he is too brown to be safe. Let that sink in. A child asking if their skin is too brown to be safe.

The impacts of this ICE surge are utterly devastating and will have far reaching impacts on peoples mental, emotional and physical health long after this ends. It is essential that we pass LD 2106 and restore schools, hospitals, libraries and day cares as safe spaces.

Thank you for your time and consideration