

29 January 2026

Maine State Legislature
210 State Street
Augusta, ME 04330

Dear Honorable Members of the Maine legislature's Judiciary Committee,

My name is Hilary Wieczorek, and I am a resident of Waterville, ME. I am giving testimony today in support of LD 2106. As a parent of a child in the public school system, I feel very strongly that our schools should be safe places where children can learn and grow, without the fear of I.C.E. interrupting their studies or threatening their friends, teachers, or caregivers. Additionally, given the necessity we already have of active shooter drills and lockdown training in our schools, we should be protecting our students, teachers, and staff as much as possible, and preventing I.C.E. from patrolling the hallways and snatching whomever they choose without an official judicial warrant.

My youngest child, mentioned earlier, is medically complex, requiring care from myriad specialists spread out from Waterville and Augusta to Portland and Scarborough. She should not feel afraid walking through the doors of these health centers, places of care and assistance to her and so many others – and those who staff the hospitals and medical spaces should not fear for their safety and ability to go to work either. Yet recent news reports indicate that I.C.E.'s cruelly-named "Operation Catch of the Day" is causing many staff members to be "terrified to come to work," if not actively detained*. People who work in our health care facilities, as well as those in schools, day care centers, and libraries, have chosen work in the service of others. They should be rewarded for this, not threatened for it.

Finally, people who work in all employment areas covered by LD 2106 are fully-vetted with a thorough background check prior to their employment. They help the most vulnerable of our communities: children, the sick, the poor, the elderly. They are not "the worst of the worst" – not even close! They are the lynchpin of our fully-functioning society and should feel safe in their workplaces. In a time when the beautiful attributes of curiosity and empathy are under assault in our country, please pass this emergency I.C.E. bill to ensure another level of safety for those who nurture and epitomize these essential qualities.

Thank you.

Hilary Wieczorek
Waterville, ME

* <https://www.wmtw.com/article/mainehhealth-seeing-higher-than-usual-call-outs-amid-increased-ice-operations/70099951>