

Good Afternoon and let me introduce myself: I am Patrick Collins, a first grade teacher in Lewiston, Maine, I stand in strong support of **LD 2106 — An Act to Prohibit the Disclosure of Nonpublic Records Without Proper Judicial Review** because every child in my classroom deserves the dignity of safety and the freedom to learn without fear. In the communities where I teach and where I live, from Lewiston to Portland, immigrant families are living in constant anxiety, afraid to send their children to school, to seek medical care, or simply to walk down the street for groceries. This pervasive fear fractures our collective well-being and mirrors the broader class dynamics that disconnect people from one another, turning public spaces into zones of surveillance rather than care and community. When families are afraid, our schools; spaces that should be devoted to collective flourishing, become sites of trauma rather than growth. LD 2106 would help ensure that public institutions remain places of learning, healing, and connection, not extensions of punitive power without accountability.

In the spirit of Mr Rogers' enduring message about *looking for the helpers during times of distress*, I see this bill as a way our society can choose to be helpers together protecting families, teachers, and children rather than subjecting them to unpredictable intrusion. True education and community support are not isolated acts of charity but collective responsibilities that challenge systems of domination and fear. We must push back against practices that make our neighbors feel hunted and unwelcome. LD 2106 affirms that due process and judicial oversight matter, and it recognizes that caring for one another builds stronger, more equitable communities. I urge the Judiciary Committee to support this bill so that every parent, every child, and every teacher can show up in our schools and communities with trust, hope, and solidarity.

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Portland
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Thank you, Patrick Collins