

Dear esteemed members of the judiciary committee,

I am writing to you today about an issue I find to be pressing. One of the first things that President Trump did when taking office was roll back the policy that essentially barred ICE actions in places like schools, libraries, and hospitals. Safety in these institutions is integral to our community and so I urge you to support LD 2106, which will ensure proper judicial warrants are obtained before enforcement in these spaces occurs. This legislation would protect the many systems that serve our state from the undue stress of immigration enforcement being a rising potentiality. In light of recent events, many members of Maine's immigrant community are worried for their safety due to this presidential administration establishing broad guidelines for their targets. Coupled with the roll back of the essential policy that prevented ICE from enforcing in these community spaces, we have seen a drastic decrease in people even wanting to utilize these systems. Our neighbors are too afraid to leave their children at daycare, or seek medical treatment, or attend public schools. As a university employee myself, I have witnessed the impact that this fear has had on college students alone. Students are rallying together to ensure their peers have access to basic necessities because some are too afraid to leave their homes. While it is beautiful to witness this type of support being offered, I do not think it should be necessary. I don't think anyone should be put in this position and this bill is a means to protect not only students, but every member of our community. It is unfair to our immigrant community members to sit around while they disrupt their lives in order to avoid this apparent blanket attack on anyone who seems "different." Every person deserves due process and bills like LD 2106 ensure that this standard is met. Thank you for your time and for considering support for LD 2106.

Sincerely,

Jenna Butler
Portland, ME

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LD 2106

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