

January 29th, 2026

Dear Chair Carney, Chair Kuhn and honorable members of the Joint Committee on Judiciary,

My name is Emma Barker and I live in Portland.

I am writing today to urge you to vote ought to pass on LD 2106,
An Act to Prohibit the Disclosure of Nonpublic Records Without Proper Judicial Review.

This act protects the rights of Maine residents as they go about their daily life in public school, a college or university, a health care facility, a child care facility, a family child care provider or public library even if a single person in the location provides voluntary consent permitting a law enforcement officer engaged in immigration enforcement or supporting immigration enforcement to enter that nonpublic area.

This would protect Maine's public schools, hospitals, daycares, and libraries from ICE, as they continue to terrorize our neighbors and community.

It has become clear in the past couple of weeks that the actions of ICE and CBP do not protect our communities here in Maine, but rather create disruption, chaos, and fear. I am new to Portland as of this past fall, but even without lots of connections here yet, the fear is palpable in this community. Terrified by ICE's presence and tactics, a huge portion of this city is unable to go about their normal routines. The stories of ICE arresting people in unnecessary places with excessive force and without warrants just keep coming. I too am scared - before last week, I had never felt genuine fear for how federal law enforcement might respond to my efforts to be a good neighbor and citizen. ICE's unchecked actions here terrorize our *whole* community. This fear has material impacts, too. Parts of my work involve education, and events have been cancelled or moved online due to the risk of going to school - ICE is denying children education. Parents who are afraid to send their children to school can't work as they provide childcare, and immigrants are integral to our workforce here in Portland - ICE is threatening our economy. Patients who are afraid to go to the doctor may lose critical treatment - ICE is risking lives. LD 2106 must be passed. This is basic protection of our basic human rights and the function of our community. It is critical that we use this legal pathway to limit ICE's ability to reach into our community hubs, our schools, and our healthcare facilities to spread terror and violence.

Thank you for voting ought to pass on LD 2106.

Sincerely,

Emma Barker