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LD 2106

I am a LCSW practicing in the State of Maine. I have spent my career working with refugees and asylum seekers in Africa and Maine as a researcher and clinician. I currently have clients who are asylum seekers and refugees and I have done forensic psychological assessments for asylum hearings. I have heard from clients the fear and psychological harm inflicted by the threat and reality of ICE roundups and the reluctance to put their children and themselves in harm's way. People fear sending their children to school, going to work, buying food, getting medical care, and having their children in day care. The people I know who are seeking asylum and have come to the US as refugees are hard working contributors to Maine's economy and communities. They are not threats to public safety. I strongly support LD 2106 - An Act to Prohibit the Disclosure of Nonpublic Records Without Proper Judicial Review to protect their right to access schools, health care, child care, and libraries without fear. Maine's teachers, healthcare workers, daycare workers, and librarians should not feel afraid to report to work and do their essential jobs; and Maine's teachers, healthcare workers, daycare workers, and librarians should have clear information from the state about what to do if ICE shows up. Thank you for your attention to this essential legislation.