

Jessica Walker
South Portland
LD 2106

Good morning, Senator Carney, Representative Kuhn, and members of the committee.

My name is Jessica Walker and I am a constituent from South Portland, Maine. I am submitting testimony in strong support of LD 2106.

I support LD 2106 because it will ensure proper judicial review of ICE operations in Maine, preventing ICE from conducting immigration enforcement without a valid judicial warrant in schools, hospitals and healthcare facilities, daycares, and libraries. ICE must be prevented from obtaining private records in the event they enter nonpublic areas of these spaces.

The impact of ICE in our community in just one week has been staggering. The deployment has deprived our fellow Mainers of access to school, to work, to food, to medical treatment, and so much more. It has robbed children of peace of mind and access to education; made our neighbors afraid to move their cars after a snow storm; put families in danger of losing their homes because they don't dare go to work; and turned a simple trip to the store for diapers into a harrowing journey that has a real risk that the parent won't be able to return home. This is not who we are. This is not the country we live in.

New Mainers are vital to our community. They live and work and love and learn as integral parts of our society and we're so much better for it. We must do all that we can as a community to ensure that they have a right to safety, dignity, due process, and equal treatment under the law.

Every Mainer, regardless of immigration status, should be able to attend school, go to a doctor's appointment, or simply visit their local library without fear or the threat of intimidation from ICE.

I strongly support LD 2106 and I urge this committee to vote in favor of this bill.

Thank you in advance for your consideration, time, and service.

Sincerely,
Jessica Walker