

Jessica Bondesen
South Paris
LD 2106

Honorable members of the Judiciary committee,

I am sending written testimony in support of LD2106 and urge you to pass this emergency bill.

As a parent of a child that goes to elementary school, I see the immense strain that is already put on teachers and the stress that our children are already put under in having to be prepared for the worst at any time. ICE entering schools without judicial warrants and the nature of their presence only exacerbates this stress on teachers and our children.

I believe this bill protects Maine's kids, parents, teachers, healthcare workers and all of us by denying ICE access to schools, healthcare facilities, daycares, and libraries without a valid judicial warrant. I am seeing in our state and across the country multiple dangerous violations of rights. Under the current administration, immigration enforcement is broad and indiscriminate, targeting immigrant communities in general and creating a public health crisis that includes extreme fear and trauma, as well as actual family separation, detention in inhumane conditions, and deportation to life-threatening circumstances.

I have many immigrant neighbors across our beautiful state that do not deserve to be living in this constant state of fear, missing time at work, their kids missing time at school, unable to leave their homes to shop or go to essential appointments.

I urge you to pass LD2106 to ensure that we can protect the rights and safety of vulnerable Maine residents, including children, workers at public schools, healthcare facilities, daycares, and libraries, and serve key public policy interests, including making sure all Maine children receive an education and public health information is freely shared.

Thank you for your time,
Jess Bondesen
S. Paris