



Dr. Ruth Kermish, Executive Director
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Dear Esteemed members of the Joint Standing Committee on Judiciary,

My name is Dr. Ruth Kermish and I am submitting testimony on behalf of the Math Mathematics and Science Alliance (MMSA), a non-profit organization committed to supporting educators as we advocate for equitable access to Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) learning for all students. MMSA works with over 1,500 Maine educators every year, from Kittery to Caribou, providing training and networking opportunities for and with educators.

MMSA strongly supports LD 2106, An Act to Prohibit the Disclosure of Nonpublic Records Without Proper Judicial Review.

Working within Maine's schools every day and partnering so closely with Maine's educators every day, we understand the demands and pressures placed on our schools and educators. Maine's educators and school leaders face growing uncertainty and stress because of recent immigration enforcement activity. In districts with higher populations of immigrant families, we are seeing concrete harms: parents and caregivers detained or removed; children arriving home to empty houses; and families keeping children home from school out of fear that routine travel to and from school could expose them to enforcement actions. These realities directly undercut students' ability to attend school consistently, concentrate in class, and engage in the long-term learning necessary to succeed in STEM and other pathways.

LD 2106 will provide essential clarity and a procedural safeguard for school leaders and families by ensuring that nonpublic records are not disclosed to outside agencies without appropriate judicial review. Clear statutory protections will:

- Reduce fear and confusion among families so more children attend school regularly.
- Give educators and administrators a clearly defined framework and guidance to follow when responding to requests from immigration enforcement entities.
- Protect student safety, privacy, and the trust that enables effective teaching and learning – especially for students already facing barriers to opportunity.
- Support Maine's broader workforce and economic goals by keeping students engaged in education pathways that lead to careers in STEM and beyond.

Maine has taken important, practical steps to remove barriers to student success – from expanding access to school meals and career and technical education to improving pathways to postsecondary opportunity. LD 2106 complements those efforts by removing a powerful deterrent to school attendance and participation. Ensuring that students feel safe and supported in school is essential if we are to close equity gaps and build the skilled workforce Maine needs.

For these reasons, MMSA urges the Committee to support LD 2106. Thank you for your attention to this critical issue and for your service to Maine's students and families.

Sincerely,



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