

Dana Rosen Annear
Auburn
LD 2106

Hearing Date: Thursday January 29, 2026

My name is Dana Rosen Annear. I am a Licensed Clinical Social Worker who has had the privilege of working as a school-based contractor within the Lewiston School Department for 28 years. I am writing today in support of LD2106 An Act to Prohibit the Disclosure of Nonpublic Records Without Proper Judicial Review.

We must continue to allow schools to be a place of safety, support and education for all Maine students and families by prohibiting ICE from entering and/or accessing information without signed judicial warrants. Children need to be able to count on their school to be a place where they feel safe and know they are protected. School should not be a place of fear and uncertainty.

With the increased presence of ICE agents in our state, we have witnessed an increase in student absences. Families are afraid to have their children wait at bus stops and attend school because they fear their children will not be protected. Students have stopped attending afterschool programs so that families do not have to worry about transporting the children and potentially being detained by ICE agents in the school parking lot. Many of our children have experienced extensive trauma in their lives and need consistency, predictability, and trusted caretakers. Their families also have endured extreme situations and face infinite barriers as they try to support their children and overcome hardships.

After experiencing the pandemic and then the mass shooting in 2023, our dependency on the public schools to provide safe havens for children again became highlighted. Educators know their students and are vital in recognizing the needs and challenges students face. Schools play a critical role in the growth and development of students and families. When safety is compromised, the purpose of school is lost. We must be able to protect our students' and employees' information from being shared with ICE officials without judicial warrants signed by a judge. We entrust our educators with our children every single day; please listen when we tell you that allowing ICE agents into our schools would be dangerous, disruptive and traumatic to our students and staff. Please vote in support of LD2106 and provide the tools needed to help schools, hospitals, daycare and libraries to navigate this situation.

Thank you very much. Your consideration of these critical issues is appreciated by so many of us.

Sincerely,
Dana Rosen Annear