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Morrill
LD 2106

Thank you for taking the time to read this testimony. My name is Lou Hoecker. I am a resident of Morrill, but grew up in the greater Portland area. Recently I have watched as ICE wreaks havoc in the place I call home and in the lives of people that are part of my community. I am writing to you today to urge you to support LD 2106 in order to protect Maine's public schools, daycares, hospitals, and libraries from ICE.

We have witnessed this past couple of weeks the horrific and terrifying effect that ICE is having in our communities across Maine. People are being abducted and families are torn apart. Children are scared to go to school. One of Trump's first actions was to eliminate a federal policy that prohibits ICE enforcement actions at places like schools and hospitals. Earlier this fall a parent was abducted just after dropping their child off at school. This cruelty needs to end. Schools and hospitals should be a safe place for everyone.

All children have a right to an education, regardless of immigration status. School should be a place of learning and welcome, not one of fear. Many children in the community have not been able to go to school recently out of fear of not being able to return home, or coming home to find their parents gone. Additionally, people should be able to seek the medical care they need without fear of deportation.

This campaign of violence needs to end, especially at the most vulnerable places. Have you heard the screams of children as their parents are taken in front of them, the wail of a mother being placed in an unmarked vehicle? LD 2106 would protect the rights of the most vulnerable in at least these public spaces and provide guidance for those working there. While I believe this mass deportation campaign and terror needs to completely end, LD 2106 would at least be a step in the right direction to provide security for the most vulnerable and make sure all children are able to receive an education. Please support LD 2106.