



Testimony of the Maine Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics

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IN SUPPORT OF:

LD 2106: An Act to Prohibit the Disclosure of Nonpublic Records Without Proper Judicial Review

Joint Standing Committee on Judiciary

Thursday, January 29, 2026

Senator Carney, Representative Kuhn, and distinguished members of the Committee on Judiciary, my name is Dr. Joseph Anderson. I am a board-certified pediatrician and Chair of the Advocacy Committee for the Maine Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics. On behalf of the Maine AAP, thank you for accepting this testimony in support of LD 2106 on behalf of Maine's pediatricians.

The American Academy of Pediatrics is dedicated to the health, safety, and well-being of all children. From that perspective, LD 2106 is a critically important public health and child well-being measure. It protects children's access to education, healthcare, childcare, and community resources, while also providing clear, much-needed guidance to the professionals who serve them.

In my clinical practice, I care for children whose parents have increasingly expressed fear about leaving their homes and participating in daily life because of heightened Immigration and Customs Enforcement activity. Parents have told me they are hesitant to take their children into the community—including to school, child care, and even medical appointments—out of concern that they or a loved one could be detained. When families are afraid to seek care, children are harmed. Preventive visits are missed. Vaccinations are delayed. Chronic conditions worsen. Mental health concerns escalate. This fear does not stay confined to individual families; it becomes a broader public health issue that affects schools, healthcare systems, and communities across Maine.

For decades, federal administrations of both parties recognized that immigration enforcement at sensitive locations like schools and hospitals undermines public health and child safety. The recent erosion of these protections has created confusion, fear, and instability, particularly for children who rely on consistent access to care, education, and safe spaces.

LD 2106 responds to this moment by reinforcing a clear boundary: schools, healthcare facilities, child care settings, and libraries should not become sites of immigration enforcement without proper judicial oversight. This bill helps ensure that children can attend school, receive medical care, and access community resources without fear, and that parents can make decisions in their children's best interests without weighing the risk of detention.

Importantly, LD 2106 also protects Maine's workforce. Healthcare providers, educators, child care workers, and librarians are placed in untenable positions when ICE agents arrive and demand access to nonpublic areas or sensitive records. These workers are not trained to interpret the nuances of immigration law or constitutional search requirements in moments of crisis. By prohibiting voluntary consent for immigration enforcement access without a valid judicial warrant, LD 2106 provides clarity, consistency, and protection for workers. It removes the burden of on-the-spot decision-making and replaces it with clear, statewide standards and guidance developed by the Attorney General. This is not only good policy; it is essential for worker safety, morale, and retention.

From a pediatric standpoint, the stakes are profound. Fear and toxic stress are well-established risk factors for poor physical and mental health outcomes in children. Policies that deter families from accessing healthcare, education, and basic services directly undermine child development and long-term well-being. Anything the state can do to discourage immigration enforcement activity in healthcare, childcare, or educational environments should be carefully considered in light of these harms.

LD 2106 does not obstruct lawful immigration enforcement. It does not place institutions above the law. Instead, it ensures that enforcement actions in sensitive settings occur only with appropriate judicial review, while protecting children, families, and the professionals who serve them.

On behalf of the Maine Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics, **we respectfully ask that this committee vote Ought to Pass on LD 2106.** This bill advances child health, supports Maine's workforce, and affirms our shared commitment to safe, accessible public spaces where children can learn, heal, and thrive.

Thank you for your time and thoughtful consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Joe Anderson" followed by a stylized flourish.

Joe Anderson, DO, FAAP
Advocacy Chair, Maine Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics