

Kate Zehr  
South Portland  
LD 2106

Good afternoon, Senator Carney, Representative Kuhn, and Members of the Judiciary Committee,

My name is Kate Zehr and I am a resident of South Portland, Maine.

I am writing today in support of LD 2106, which would restrict federal immigration enforcement from entering hospitals, libraries, daycares, and schools without a judicial warrant.

I have many personal connections within the immigrant community of Maine, and I have witnessed first hand time and again how immigrants make our communities stronger. Immigrants bring new perspective, culture, and hope to our state. Immigrants contribute to our local economy, and provide a future for a state with an aging population. Immigrant families are making Maine, and America, stronger and more resilient. I am a better US citizen and a better person because of what my immigrant friends have modeled with their behavior and contributions to our community.

My friends are scared. They are missing work, school, medical appointments, and community events for fear of being detained by ICE, regardless of their immigration statuses. Legal status in the United States and in Maine no longer seem to matter, as ICE is using racial profiling tactics to make arrests, and they are doing so violently. While the response and willingness to provide mutual aid from many in our community heartens me, the need for it is discouraging. We should not need folks to monitor school bus stops for ICE activity in order for kids to feel safe; we should not need to deliver groceries and essential supplies to families because they are too frightened to leave their homes. The terror ICE is perpetrating in Maine, Minnesota, and across the country is antithetical to everything this country was founded upon.

The passing of LD 2106 would mitigate some of these problems by prohibiting ICE from accessing sensitive locations that people rely on to meet their basic needs. While I and other like minded folks continue to advocate for the defunding of ICE nationally, LD2106 would provide some relief to our communities in Maine by allowing our neighbors to go to work, school, and medical appointments with less fear.

Please support LD 2106, and ensure that Maine's schools, libraries, healthcare centers, and daycares are a safe place for all who need them.