

Aurelia Snow
Old Town
LD 2106

Respected legislators of Maine,

Thank you for taking the time to read my testimony. My name is Aurelia Snow and I am a born-and-raised Mainer who is deeply concerned about the abuse being forced upon my immigrant neighbors. Because of this concern, I am writing today to urge you to pass LD 2106 as a beacon of common sense, public health, and basic ethical decency.

LD 2106 would make daycares, public schools, hospitals, and libraries safer for everyone by requiring a judicial warrant to be present before agents are allowed to enter and interact with the vulnerable people within. It would protect the privacy of all Mainers by requiring a judicial warrant to compel any sharing of medical, school, or other private records with agents. It would also provide clear guidance for caregivers and support professionals on proper protocol in both these situations. Within this testimony, I will share the core beliefs and values which defend my support for this proposed law.

My first and foremost conviction for LD 2106 comes from my staunch New England belief that individual liberty is precious, and that it is so precious that we must make any rescinding of that liberty a fierce fight every step of the way. Reviewing confidential records which detail medical history, a home address, or immigration status is a gigantic breach of privacy, which is in turn a violation of individual liberty if the person has not consented to it. LD 2106 builds additional protections for this individual liberty by requiring a judicial warrant/outstanding federal law to access such private documents. This is a protection which benefits every single person in Maine.

My second reason for supporting LD 2106 is related to my training and education in social work. I am a full-time student in the graduate social work program at the University of Maine. This is a program which prepares us to support communities with knowledge of risk, ethical issues, and vulnerable populations. These vulnerable populations describe people who are at greater risk of harm. Some of the groups which will be impacted are children, older adults, disabled Mainers, and unhoused Mainers. LD 2106 describes spaces which provide vital services and it could cause loss of medical services, early life trauma, disruption of support systems, and delays in educational development if agents are allowed to invade them and act without impunity. In addition, the vulnerable groups listed above are at greatly increased risk of abuse and their private information in confidential documents could be used to exploit them in multiple ways. LD 2106 provides more protection for these vulnerable Mainers.

My third reason for urging to pass LD 2106 is economic common sense. Daycares, libraries, public schools, and hospitals are all spaces which provide a vital service to not only the vulnerable populations they serve, but also to the families and communities. If these vulnerable areas are not protected, then families and communities will not utilize them, which could cause a sudden drop in income for business-based caregiving or medical centers. If the families and communities no longer have adequate childcare, trusted healthcare, or a safe place to remain indoors, then this could mean a rise in unemployment as parents are unable to work. It could also place undue burden on already strained systems by increasing emergency responses to situations which could have been handled if the individual, family, or community felt safe to seek out preventative services earlier. LD 2106 provides more confidence in these important services which prevents a sudden, disastrous disruption on Maine's economy.

You may have noticed that in each of my reasons, I spoke of the harm to "people" instead of specifying immigrants. It should be recognized that immigrants are another group of vulnerable people who are often subjected to stigma, exploitation, and

prejudice. Laws which uplift their human rights and confirm our values of liberty and justice for all are essential. While it is true that LD 2106 was created during a time of persecution of immigrants, I believe that the legislation proposed will protect all Mainers and that this universal positive impact should be highlighted.

Thank you for your time.