

Leah Bares
Kennebunk
LD 2106

Senator Carney, Representative Moonen, and members of the Judiciary Committee,
My name is Leah Bares. I'm a mother of three, a resident of Kennebunk, and a current member of the RSU 21 School Board. I submit this testimony in my individual capacity in strong support of LD 2106.

This bill before you is a line in the sand, not just legally, but morally. LD 2106 ensures that fear does not replace freedom at the front doors of the places we hold most sacred.

Maine has always known how to lead under pressure. At Gettysburg, when the line was breaking, it was Chamberlain and the 20th Maine who stood their ground. They were outnumbered and outflanked, but they did not retreat. Instead, they held the line. "Stand firm, ye boys from Maine" meant something then, and it should mean something now.

This is a moment that asks you to do the same: to show courage and to protect the people you serve. Do not yield to political fear.

LD 2106 is a litmus test, a measure of who among us is a humanitarian. It is an opportunity to affirm that Maine will not allow children, families, or educators to be caught in the crossfire of federal overreach. It is about dignity. It is about rule of law.

I urge you to vote Ought to Pass on LD 2106 and to show this state, and this nation, what it means to lead with courage and conscience.

Stand firm and do what is right.

Respectfully,
Leah Bares
Kennebunk, Maine