

Morgan Heckerd
Rockland
LD 2106

I regret that I am unable to attend the public hearing today for LD 2106 in person and am grateful for the opportunity to submit a written testimony in support of the bill. I am a born and raised Mainer, and I currently live and work in Rockland, Maine. I am offering this testimony based on my own lived experience as a professional and engaged community member.

I have worked as a teacher, a waitress, a librarian, a farm hand, a tutor, a line cook, and now a social worker. I have worked alongside folks from all walks of life, and I cannot say enough how grateful I am for all forms of diversity. I am grateful that my places of work have felt safe for me, my coworkers, my students, my clients, and my patrons. Policies that allow or encourage immigration enforcement in schools, daycares, libraries, and hospitals make those spaces unsafe. Policies like these spread fear and distrust. When immigration enforcement is allowed in schools, kids don't go to school. When immigration enforcement is allowed in daycares, teachers don't show up for work. When immigration enforcement is allowed in hospitals, people don't get life saving medical care. When immigration enforcement is allowed in libraries, our homeless population stays out in the freezing cold. These are NOT hypothetical consequences, they are predictable outcomes. I don't think I need to convince you that: kids belong in schools; everyone deserves medical care; daycares need teachers; and libraries are for our communities.

LD 2106 provides practical and clear guidance to ensure these important spaces are protected. I do not want to see ICE in schools, libraries, daycares, or hospitals. I don't think our communities deserve to feel fear every time they enter these spaces. That is why I'm asking the members of the Judiciary Committee to vote "ought to pass" on LD2106.

Thank you.