

Tamra Benson  
Strong  
LD 2106

Hello, Senator Anne Carney, Representative William D. Pluecker, and the honorable members of the Judiciary Committee.

My name is Tamra Benson, and I am your constituent residing in the town of Strong, Maine. I am contacting you today to urge you to support LD 2106, An Act to Prohibit the Disclosure of Nonpublic Records Without Proper Judicial Review. There is no reason for ICE to conduct immigration enforcement at schools, daycares, hospitals, and libraries, and no Maine parent should feel afraid to send their child to school or take them to the doctor when they are sick. To conduct immigration enforcement at places like this, ICE should be required to get approval from a judge and a valid judicial warrant. LD 2106 is common sense, protects Maine's children, and all of us across the state.

For decades, both Republican and Democratic federal administrations have had policies in place that limit immigration enforcement at sensitive locations such as public schools and hospitals... built on a commonsense understanding that the importance of people being able to access these locations without fear is a matter of overall public health and in the interest of everyone. LD 2106 would require ICE to have a valid judicial warrant signed by a judge to conduct enforcement at schools, hospitals, healthcare facilities, daycares, and libraries, as well as protect people's information that might be held at these places. Importantly, the bill also provides guidance and support to teachers, healthcare workers, and other employees at these locations, ensuring that they are not put in crisis situations and forced to make individual decisions.

All children should feel safe in public schools. Public schools, libraries, daycares, and other institutions in Maine are increasingly becoming less safe due to ICE activity. We are already seeing children being kept home from school to protect them from ICE. Families are living in deep fear and anxiety, afraid to take their children to school, seek healthcare, and more. Keeping ICE out of these public spaces ensures all children's health and wellbeing. LD 2106 would protect Maine children, parents, teachers, healthcare workers, and all of us by denying ICE access to schools, healthcare facilities, daycares, and libraries without a valid judicial warrant. This is critical to community health and well-being. Schools are places for learning, exploration, and opportunity. Not immigration enforcement.

Additionally, as we have witnessed in Minnesota, and even Maine's cities of Portland and Lewiston, ICE agents are not making our communities safer. In fact, they are bringing with them to our communities a wretched air of hatred, division, violence, and fear. We cannot ignore what we have witnessed: the kidnapping of our neighbors from their homes, from their cars, from schools, from grocery stores, without just cause or due process; the racial profiling of people, whether they are citizens or not; the criminalization and brutalization of peaceful protesters exercising their first amendment rights; the mistreatment, medical neglect, abuse, and sexual assault of people in detention facilities; the murder of unarmed civilians; the deaths of six others in ICE custody in 2026 and at least 30 in 2025; the tear gassing of children as young as six months old. These actions are inexcusable and do not represent the values of Mainers.

Nature teaches us that immigration is a beautiful and natural part of life, and that diversity makes communities stronger. ICE has no place in our public spaces. Not in schools. Not in hospitals. Not in daycares. For this reason, I urge you to support LD 2106, An Act to Prohibit the Disclosure of Nonpublic Records Without Proper Judicial Review.

Thank you.