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Dear Senator Carney, Representative Kuhn, and Honorable Members of the Judiciary Committee,

I write in strong support of LD 2106 and submit this comment from the perspective of an educator and academic librarian concerned with due process, institutional integrity, and the conditions necessary for effective education and public service.

Educational and civic institutions, including schools, colleges, libraries, hospitals, and places of worship, are places where persons depend on the institutions to provide safety, stability, predictability, and trust to fulfill their core missions. When students, patrons, or their families reasonably fear immigration enforcement actions in or near these sensitive community spaces, access to education and essential public services is functionally compromised. Recent reports of widespread student absences across Maine demonstrate that this fear is not theoretical; it is already disrupting learning environments and undermining institutional operations.

Libraries, in particular, serve as foundational civic institutions. They provide access to educational resources, technology, information, and community services for residents of all ages, including children, students, immigrants, and refugees. Libraries are often relied upon for language learning, workforce development, access to government information, and academic support. The presence or threat of enforcement activity in library spaces would deter lawful use of these services, erode public trust, and interfere with libraries' legally and ethically grounded commitments to intellectual freedom, privacy, and equitable access.

LD 2106 offers a narrowly tailored, legally grounded response to these concerns. By requiring a valid judicial warrant for immigration enforcement actions in designated sensitive locations, the bill reinforces fundamental principles of due process and judicial oversight. It does not impede federal authority; rather, it establishes clear procedural safeguards that protect constitutional norms while allowing educational and civic institutions to operate without coercion or intimidation.

From an educational standpoint, the consequences of inaction are significant. Fear-driven absenteeism undermines learning outcomes, disrupts instructional continuity, and weakens the relationship between institutions and the communities they serve. Students cannot learn effectively, and libraries cannot function as public resources, when individuals feel unsafe simply by being present.

Maine's demographic and economic realities further underscore the importance of this legislation. As one of the oldest states in the nation facing persistent workforce shortages, Maine has a compelling public interest in being perceived as a place where individuals and

families feel safe to learn, work, and contribute. Policies that foster fear or legal uncertainty threaten not only individual rights but also the state's long-term social and economic resilience.

LD 2106 affirms that public safety is strengthened through lawful process, institutional integrity, and trust. For these reasons, I respectfully urge the Judiciary Committee to vote "ought to pass" on LD 2106.

Respectfully submitted,
Kara Kugelmeyer