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01/29/26

Dear Members of the Judiciary Committee of the Maine Legislature,

My name is Cindy Mitchell Perkins. I am a Maine Resident of many generations on both sides of my family. I grew up in the schools of Maine where I always had the privilege of feeling safe. I have spent my adult life teaching and providing counseling to the children and adults in Maine Schools. I have worked in public schools and for a short time ran my own preK to 2nd grade state licensed school. I have worked on and headed committees where we made plans for the safety of our children. I am now retired from public education while continuing my commitment to our children and their families. I am also a parent and soon to be grandparent of Maine children.

I have nothing but the deepest respect for anyone working in childcare or healthcare in our state. Teachers, educators, health care and child care providers understand the depth of responsibility they take on when a parent drops their child off at their facility. Right now we are at a time where those boundaries are not being respected. Our children and grandchildren deserve every possible safety net around them every single day.

Most schools now have security systems and locks on doors to be sure whoever comes into their building and onto school grounds is someone who is safe for their children. We have safety plans for when there is any question of danger. Sadly, our children have been put through so many drills about dangerous situations that many of them are traumatized by the possibility. We as adults assure them our facilities are safe for them. As a psychotherapist I have sworn to "Do NO HARM". Not passing **LD2106** will do harm to children and families of Maine.

LD2106 will help these adults say with confidence, we adults are doing everything we can to keep you safe in our school. We are not going to let anyone in our school who is not safe. Those are huge statements to make to children and their parents. These brave, caring, loving adults need this bill to be sure the laws of Maine are behind them when they say that and when someone attempts to access their space.

We are at a time when people can put on masks and uniforms and intimidate, harm, take away and even kill people who are in our care. They are doing this without identifying themselves. Our laws need to be safe and clear that that is not ok!!!!

The people in our care share vulnerable information in order to get help for their children. That has to be protected. There need to be proper procedures and avenues for the sharing of any information. We have procedures for that and **LD2106 is CRITICAL** for the safety of the citizens of Maine in our schools, day cares, and health care facilities. Our children are terrified now for many reasons, as you are well aware of. Lets take this worry and anxiety off theirs and their adults plates.

Thank you for your time.

Cindy Mitchell Perkins, LCPC.



Cindy Perkins
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LD 2106