

Sam Wells
Regarding LD 2106
January 29th, 2026

My name is Sam Wells and I am a concerned resident of Maine. I would like to testify on the importance of passing LD 2106 in response to aggressive and indiscriminate federal immigration enforcement in Maine.

Over the past year, I have been deeply concerned with the way in which immigration enforcement has been carried out in the United States. In Maine and across the country, masked agents of the state are stopping people and demanding papers to prove citizenship, often profiling people based on their accent or the color of their skin. These actions, which mirror those of authoritarian states throughout history, are creating a public health crisis of fear and trauma for all Americans, especially those in immigrant communities. While heavy-handed immigration enforcement has no place anywhere in this country, it is especially egregious when conducted in spaces that provide essential community services. Schools, daycares, libraries, hospitals, and health care facilities should be accessible to all Mainers regardless of immigration status and all Mainers should feel comfortable using and working in these spaces without the threat of disruption and intimidation by federal agents.

LD 2106 is an important step in allowing Mainers to feel safer in spaces meant to provide the most basic of community services. For decades, both Democratic and Republican administrations maintained commonsense policies that prohibited ICE from conducting enforcement in hospitals, schools and other community spaces, recognizing that the benefits for public health outweighed any small impediment to ICE's ability to operate. This current administration has veered sharply away from those policies and is using extreme tactics to create a climate of fear in our communities. I believe strongly that medicine, education, and childcare are among the most basic of human rights and that no person should feel unsafe in seeking out these resources. By enacting LD 2106, the Maine Legislature would help protect thousands of Mainers from extreme ICE tactics. Furthermore, LD 2106 would provide important clarity and guidance to people who work in these places about how to respond if ICE attempts to enter a private facility or seek information about Maine residents without a valid judicial warrant. For these reasons, I would like to express my strong support for LD 2106.

Thank you for reading my testimony and considering the importance of passing LD 2106.