

January 28, 2026

Judiciary Committee
Room 438
State House
Augusta, ME

Dear Senator Anne Carney, Representative Amy Kuhn and Esteemed Committee Members,

I am writing as a private citizen in support of **LD 2106 (HP 1421) An Act to Prohibit the Disclosure of Nonpublic Records Without Proper Judicial Review**. This bill is presented by: Representative Sato of Gorham. Cosponsored by Senator Rotundo of Androscoggin and Representatives: Dhalac of South Portland, Speaker Fecteau of Biddeford, Lee of Auburn, Meyer of Eliot, Murphy of Scarborough, Rana of Bangor, Senators: President Daughtry of Cumberland, Talbot Ross of Cumberland.

My name is Deborah Brinkworth. I am a mother, an aunt, and a lifelong advocate for family and community. Members of my immediate family live and work in Maine, while younger women in my family now live with fewer rights than I had at their age. This matters deeply to me.

My siblings and I are the children of parents, now deceased, who benefited profoundly from the care provided by people who came to this country seeking safety and a better life—some as documented immigrants, some as legal asylum seekers. These caregivers worked for a well-established company and treated our parents with dignity, respect, and compassion. They protected and supported them, allowing our parents to live their final years with autonomy and humanity.

Because of their customs, beliefs, and commitment to care, these individuals made my parents' lives healthier, safer, and richer than would otherwise have been possible. Their contributions strengthened not only our family, but our community and our economy—at every level—in ways that cannot be measured in just dollars.

I will not name the person I am most concerned about, because I fear making her a target. Before we knew her, and throughout the time she worked with us, she traveled to Boston year after year seeking citizenship. It was granted the year my parents passed. Even now, citizen or not, she is not truly safe—and that should concern all of us.

This bill will not solve everything. But it is a necessary and meaningful step for Maine to stand up ethically and legally for its residents and community members. It is an urgent affirmation that our state will not remain silent while people face intimidation, harm, or violence.

I am a high school teacher in the Bangor area and have lived and taught in this community for more than thirty-five years. Hundreds of students have passed through my classroom. This is the first time I have felt that I may not be able to keep them safe. That is a profound statement from someone who was teaching on the day of Columbine.

The threat we face today is not an isolated act of violence, but the possibility of systemic government overreach—by the most well-funded government in history—targeting documented and undocumented people, citizens and non-citizens, adults and children alike. These are the students I teach. These are their families. This is my community.

The people of Maine deserve the full protection of the United States and Maine Constitutions, the Bill of Rights, and our laws. State law must clearly protect our residents from federal overreach. Our schools, child-care facilities, health-care settings, and public libraries must remain safe places, protected from detention or seizure without a valid judicial warrant.

Recent assertions that judicial warrants are unnecessary to enter private property make it essential that LD 2106 also protect private property. Under current conditions, my students and their families—regardless of citizenship status—are at risk. Fourth Amendment protections must be upheld in Maine, especially as the federal government continues to invoke “emergency” powers.

LD 2106 is a necessary and urgent step to protect civil rights, restrict federal access to sensitive locations, and ensure accountability. I strongly urge this Committee to unanimously support LD 2106 and pass it, with amended language addressing private property if needed.

Respectfully,

Deborah Phillips Brinkworth

11 Summer Street Hampden, ME 04444

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personal
LD 2106

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