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Testimony of Rep. Sue Salisbury in support of

LD 2106, An Act to Prohibit the Disclosure of Nonpublic Records Without Proper Judicial Review

Before the Joint Standing Committee on Judiciary

Senator Carney, Representative Kuhn and distinguished members of the Joint Standing Committee on Judiciary, I am Sue Salisbury, and I represent House District 128, which includes part of Westbrook. I am here to testify in support of **LD 2106, An Act to Prohibit the Disclosure of Nonpublic Records Without Proper Judicial Review**.

I would like to share my strong support for this bill and thank Representative Sato for bringing it forward. As a former member of the Westbrook School Committee, I know full well how much care and compassion school districts show their students.

As the Director of Westbrook Families Feeding Families, a nonprofit food pantry in Westbrook, I understand that food insecurity is a challenge our community faces. Over the years, I have worked with the Westbrook school department to identify students and families in need of food.

The Westbrook school department always has prioritized the confidentiality and safety of families, and they only ever share information with the approval of the family. With the current Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) insurgency in Westbrook, our call to action has changed. We are no longer comfortable holding public events and initially struggled to ensure that impacted families were identified. We went back to our trusted school district partners and developed a plan to deliver food to families who were afraid to leave their homes. This plan ensured that the confidentiality and safety of these families were maintained, while still offering access to basic necessities. Sharing confidential information with ICE or the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) for the sole purpose of “immigration enforcement” degrades the trust that school departments have cultivated and creates an unnecessarily unsafe environment. ICE and DHS have shown that they aren’t willing to follow the law, so it is incumbent on us to put as many guardrails in place to keep our families safe.

I urge you to support this bill and to keep our local schools, libraries, healthcare and childcare facilities truly safe, as they are intended to be.