

Testimony in support of LD 2106: An Act to Prohibit the Disclosure of Nonpublic Records Without Proper Judicial Review

Good afternoon, Chairs Carney and Kuhn, and members of the Judiciary Committee.

My name is Cathleen Miller. I live in Scarborough, Maine, and work as a librarian at the University of New England. I also serve as the current chair of the Intellectual Freedom Committee for the Maine Library Association. I am writing to urge your support of LD 2106, which will provide a layer of legal protection for schools, healthcare facilities, and other public service organizations that serve immigrant community members.

As someone who works in a higher education institution, I know that our communities are on edge. Many of our housekeeping staff are immigrants and are at risk of being targeted by ICE. Many of them are choosing between work and feeling a sense of safety. We all want to help our community members feel safer.

We know that children are not going to school, parents are not buying groceries, and people are curtailing their daily activities for fear of being snatched away from their families by masked, armed officers. One of my colleagues, who has been in this country legally for many decades, confided that she had been having conversations with her husband about returning to her home country. Her children are American citizens. She is terrified. No one should have to live like this. Everyone deserves to feel safe.

I urge you to move this bill forward to protect our immigrant neighbors. Thank you for your time and your service.

Cathleen Miller
Scarborough
LD 2106

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