

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

Dear Sen. Carney, Rep. Kuhn and Honorable Members of the Judiciary Committee:

I'm sorry that I cannot provide testimony in person or on zoom, and I appreciate the opportunity to share my written testimony in support of this bill.

I am a resident of Waterville and mother of a student at the Waterville Public High School, a supporter of our exceptional community institutions, and I am asking you to support LD 2106.

We already see reduced school attendance and reports of less business by small businesses in towns with ICE activity. This bill will ensure that people are safer to attend school and carry out the activities of daily life by requiring ICE to produce a valid judicial warrant signed by a judge before they can enter, and protects workers by minimizing the ability of ICE to create crisis situations.

In Waterville, I value and appreciate our immigrant neighbors. Immigrants come to Waterville for many reasons; some have come here as refugees seeking a safe place, others come as educators. The US should be a law-abiding place where we can all feel safe and secure. Immigrants contribute to community growth and thriving.

We have seen extraordinary evidence of ICE wrongdoing, including the detention of a legally working engineer, violently grabbed off the street and his car left running. This kind of activity endangers us all.

We must act now to ensure that our communities, day care centers, schools and libraries are places of calm and safety where children and communities members are protected. We are all better when people can access health and education without fear.

Thank you,

Winifred Tate
Waterville