

Lauren Stark
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LD 2106

My name is Lauren Stark, and I am a parent, educator, policy researcher, library trustee, and community member from Belfast, Maine.

I am writing to strongly support LD 2106, which will help to ensure that Maine's children, families, and workers are able to safely access schools, health care facilities, and libraries without fear of indiscriminate targeting by immigration enforcement. Education and health care are vital human rights, and all Mainers should have access to them regardless of citizenship status.

The Trump administration's repeal of a long-standing federal policy limiting ICE enforcement at sensitive locations like schools and hospitals has caused widespread fear, trauma, and public health harms, particularly harming immigrant families and families of color in Maine. This broad, indiscriminate, and often unconstitutional immigration enforcement has deterred families from accessing education, healthcare, work, and religious life, with fears intensified by a 2025 arrest at a Portland elementary school.

LD 2106 would offer security to the over 21,000 U.S. citizen children in Maine who have at least one non-citizen parent. It would help to address the mental health and economic crisis caused by mass, indiscriminate enforcement. While Maine cannot stop federal enforcement outright, LD 2106 would support our communities by clarifying that immigration officers may not enter non-public areas of sensitive locations or obtain immigration information without a valid judicial warrant, and that workers may not give voluntary consent.

Please support this bill to protect vulnerable residents, workers families, and children, and to strengthen Maine's workforce and economy.