



MAINE AFL-CIO

A Union of Unions Standing for Maine Workers

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Testimony of Adam Goode, Maine AFL-CIO Legislative & Political Director, In Support of LD 2106, "An Act to Prohibit the Disclosure of Nonpublic Records Without Proper Judicial Review"

Senator Carney, Representative Kuhn and members of the Joint Standing Committee on Judiciary, my name is Arthur Phillips. I'm the Campaigns Director of the Maine AFL-CIO. We represent 40,000 working people in the state of Maine. We work to improve the lives and working conditions of our members and all working people. We testify in support of LD 2106.

The current operation being carried out by federal immigration agents in Maine is creating chaos and putting working people in danger. Immigrants perform some of the most valuable work in our state, including in early childhood education and health care services. Immigrants are also our union brothers and sisters and they are vital to the fabric of our communities, our economy, and the labor movement.

Previously, immigration enforcement operations were prohibited from occurring at schools or health care facilities, and for good reason. The current administration's decision to reverse policy and abduct law-abiding people while dropping kids off at school or seeing a loved one at the hospital runs contrary to our state's values and our interests. After all, when people don't feel safe sending their kids to school, they can't go to work.

Workers right now are facing unprecedented fear when leaving home to do the most basic tasks. This bill would make a modest but critical improvement to workers' peace of mind while accessing education and health care. It will also provide more clarity and guidance to workers in those sectors who will face extremely challenging circumstances when immigration agents show up and demand access to private areas or documents.

This bill would also help employers and workers by directing the Attorney General to issue model policies and guidance related to limiting voluntary assistance with immigration enforcement activity. We support this step and urge the AG's office to publish model policies and guidance as soon as is practically possible.

Recent actions by federal immigration agents have inflicted harm upon law-abiding workers across our state and impaired people's ability to pursue health care and education free of fear. We fully support this common-sense bill and urge you to vote ought to pass.