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Portland
LD 2106

Good afternoon Senator Carney, Representative Kuhn, and honorable members of the Judiciary Committee. I'm writing in support of LD 2106 "An Act to Prohibit the Disclosure of Nonpublic Records Without Proper Judicial Review."

This bill is about protecting Mainers in public places like schools and hospitals. Until the current Trump administration, there had been a federal policy prohibiting ICE from acting in these spaces, but it was rolled back since he took office a year ago. Nobody should be afraid to go to the emergency department for an injury or visit a family member who's sick in the hospital or go to high school for fear of deportation. Even taking a generous view of ICE's enforcement actions, this is just not the time or place. For decades, the federal policy was in place, and it was clear that the public health needs related to everyone being able to safely access hospitals far outweighed the needs of immigration enforcement.

This is especially important right now, when ICE is racially profiling and targeting anybody who "looks" like an immigrant. Never mind that lots of white Mainers are Francophone Canadians - ICE is targeting people of color regardless of immigration status. It's unfair to children who are afraid to go to school, and to their parents who then have to stay home from work. How are these families supposed to continue to function and support themselves? How are small businesses that employ members of these families supposed to function when their employees can't go to work? How are the rest of us supposed to continue going about our daily lives with large swaths of our communities sheltering at home from an artificial threat that doesn't need to exist?

Please advance this bill with an 'ought to pass' report. It's crucial that this bill advance to a vote and hopefully be passed as soon as possible to protect the most vulnerable Mainers (and, by extension, all Mainers). Thank you for your attention.