

Whitney Bushey
Portland, ME
January 29th, 2026

Senator Anne Carney, Representative Amy Kuhn, and members of the Committee on Judiciary,

Thank you for the opportunity to address written testimony in favor of [LD 2106](#) to the Committee. I regret that I am not able to testify in person.

My name is Whitney Bushey, I am a resident of Portland, ME, and a life long Mainer. I am writing on behalf of my community, and as witness to the fear and violence we have seen first hand resulting from ICE's operation "Catch of the Day".

My Husband and I were outside our residence when masked US Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) individuals detained a person who we later learned was a Cumberland County Corrections officer recruit. I walked around the front of the building to the field, while neighbors called warnings from upper floors. ICE representatives were armed, did not allow the young man to verify his legal status, and the young man's car was left running and unattended on Fox street.

Since then we have met with neighbors who have had similar experiences, and heard many heartbreaking stories of young adults, of mothers, of Maine educated professionals all taken in broad daylight. ICE has left a trail of broken glass and fear. Legal observers have been threatened, called terrorists, had agents follow them to their residences, and photographed.

The violent nature of these detentions is not appropriate in any venue or public space, but particularly in spaces such as schools, healthcare facilities, daycare facilities, and libraries. The workers of these spaces deserve whatever additional legal support the State of Maine can provide and are on the front lines of these new and unprecedented maneuvers. Judicial review should be further emphasized and is an existing standard requirement to protect the privacy of all Maine residents.

Thank you for your time and consideration,
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