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LD 2106

I am a lifetime resident of Maine and current constituent of Sagadahoc County. I am writing today in support of LD 2106 in support of the most basic tenets of civil liberties and physical safety in sensitive areas including places of worship, libraries, hospitals, and public schools. It is inconceivable that masked federal agents that remain heavily armed and without identification or badges can continue their campaign of violence against the most vulnerable among us within the walls of a hospital, place of worship, the learning environments of a public school or library, and to do so without even producing legitimate warrants. To bring violence and terror to such sacrosanct locations is nothing short of a violation of basic morality and civility. These actions make everyone in our communities subject to these reckless practices and ultimately creates a culture in our communities that absolutely nowhere is safe, regardless of individual citizenship status or criminal history.

Already, there are too many reports of the brutalities enacted against our communities by these agents of menace. Most recently in Southern Maine, an asylum seeker was forcefully removed from his vehicle while agents broke windows and shattered broken glass all over his baby and wife. Abducting him into an unmarked vehicle, then leaving his wife and baby in the road in dangerously cold January temperatures, without safe transportation, without a valid driver's license, or the English speaking skills to even ask for help. There are additional reports of a man visiting his wife and new born baby in the hospital and being detained. These are just two short examples of these operations in Maine that disregard and make a mockery of the most basic civil liberties: the right to due process, the right to worship freely, the right to a free and appropriate public education, the right to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness, the list goes on.

These actions are inhumane, at best. Realistically, the campaign of these masked agents is unconstitutional. More often than not, The victims of these violations are not criminals, are refugees and asylum seekers, contribute greatly to our communities, are waiting on the bureaucracy of citizenship appointments. Brutalizing the vulnerable among us puts all of us in danger. Personally, I would like to reserve the right to attend church services with my children and aging parents without being violently invaded by masked paramilitary brigades wielding tear gas, tasers, and firearms without reservation. We should all know by now that citizenship status or criminal records are completely irrelevant as these agents have and continue to violently abduct, brutalize, and kill without discernment or regard, and have repeatedly been given the full blessing of our own federal government to do so.

Consequently, it is now up to us to act locally within our great state, to maintain some semblance of civility. Producing Mandatory Judicial warrants to enter and detain folks in places of worship, hospitals, schools, and libraries should be a given in a civilized society that exercises right to due process. And yet, here we are, having to legislate the obvious after our federal government revoked such requirements, making clear their regard for the right to due process or to life liberty and the pursuit of happiness as an extraneous suggestion that can be disposed.

What are we willing to accept and what civil liberties are we willing to concede? It is with the utmost fervor that I submit testimony in support of LD 2106. It is the bare minimum to maintain the most basic of civil liberties here in Maine. Thank you.