

Lee Tsairis
Camden
LD 2106

Unfortunately, I am unable to attend the public hearing today for LD 2106. However, I appreciate the opportunity to submit written testimony in support of this bill.

I am a resident of Camden and was born and raised in Southern Maine. Although I have lived in several other states across the country, I ultimately returned to my home state and remain deeply proud to be from Maine.

Policies that allow or encourage immigration enforcement in public schools, health and childcare facilities, and public libraries have serious and harmful consequences. They result in children missing school, parents being unable to go to work, people forgoing necessary medical care, and individuals losing access to community spaces. Attending school, working to support one's family, receiving medical care, and finding safety and connection in public spaces are essential to daily life. Immigration enforcement in these settings undermines that safety and replaces it with fear.

I am deeply grateful for the diversity of our community. As a resident, professional, volunteer, and active community member, I am extremely concerned about the outcomes that will inevitably result from policies that permit immigration enforcement in these traditionally safe spaces.

LD 2106 provides clear guidance to ensure that these critical community spaces remain protected. All members of our community deserve to attend school, go to work, receive medical care, and participate fully in community life. All of our community members deserve to feel safe. For these reasons, I respectfully urge the Judiciary Committee to vote "ought to pass" on LD 2106.