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THE MAINE SENATE
132nd Legislature

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*Testimony of Senator Jill C. Duson in support of
LD 2106, An Act to Prohibit the Disclosure of Nonpublic Records Without
Proper Judicial Review
Before the Joint Standing Committee on Judiciary*

Good afternoon, Senator Carney, Representative Kuhn and esteemed members of the Judiciary Committee. My name is Jill Duson, I am the State Senator from District 27 and have the privilege of representing part of Portland and part of Westbrook. I'm also honored to serve as the Senate Assistant Majority Leader. Thank you for the opportunity to speak in support of LD 2106, An Act to Prohibit the Disclosure of Nonpublic Records Without Proper Judicial Review.

Detaining and disappearing our neighbors does not make us safer. Showing up at Gerald E. Talbot Community School to detain a father, leaving students and staff terrorized does not make us safer. Detaining a brand-new father who was steps from the hospital, bringing items to his wife and newborn, does not make us safer. Allowing masked, unidentified and undertrained agents of the federal government access to our schools, health care facilities, and libraries without a judicial warrant does not make us safer and it's why I'm here before you today.

The enhanced federal activity we've recently witnessed is done in the name of stoking fear, dividing communities and creating confusion and chaos in the lives of everyday Mainers. The Maine that I know and love is a place where all are welcome.

LD 2106 will help protect the sanctity of spaces that have historically been hands off, with the exception of a valid judicial warrant. As a retired attorney, I understand the weight and power of the rule of law. I understand holding people accountable for alleged wrongdoing, in concert with the laws of our state and country.

The recent spike in federal immigration enforcement activity does not follow the rule of law. It follows an agenda of division, fear and violence towards those who you disagree with. The aggressive tactics of federal immigration agents are stoking fear. They scooped up a gentleman from a busy intersection in my neighborhood last week. If anyone is stoking terror, it is the masked agents who are descending on our neighborhoods like alien invaders, and sucking Maine residents up into their unmarked vehicles.

I thank Representative Sato for introducing this important bill and moving the conversation around this issue forward. This bill seeks to protect the places where community members gather, almost daily. LD 2106 presents this body with an opportunity to make a real difference in the lives of vulnerable populations and sends a message that we won't be intimidated, we will not be intimidated and we won't back down. The rights and safety of Maine people are non-negotiable. Thank you to the Committee for allowing me to share my testimony.