

January 29, 2026

Dear Senator Carney, Representative Kuhn, and members of the Judiciary Committee:

My name is Julia Harper, I live in Lewiston, and I serve on the Lewiston School Committee as the elected representative of Ward 4.

I am submitting testimony in SUPPORT of LD 2106: "An Act to Prohibit the Disclosure of Nonpublic Records Without Proper Judicial Review".

Lewiston is the second largest school district in our state, with over 40 languages spoken by students.

Over the past several weeks, our communities in Lewiston have unfortunately been subject to a "surge" of Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) activity, dubbed "Operation Catch of the Day" by the agency. I say this is unfortunate (setting aside the demeaning and false equivalency of human beings to seafood) because rather than precisely and lawfully targeting individuals who have both evaded legal immigration processes and have committed violent crimes as is the agency's claim about their operations, the reality is that it's been widely-reported the tactics employed by ICE agents include utilization of [racial profiling](#) while people are going about their daily lives peacefully, such as [dropping their children off at school](#). A large portion of individuals swept up [in Maine are also following legal immigration processes and have no criminal records](#). ICE agents have created an environment of fear and trauma for any Maine student, parent, and school staff who are non-white. This has caused many students to miss school, or, as has been reported to me by parents and community based organizations in Lewiston, become fearful while attending school that something violent will happen to them, or someone they love.

Lewiston School District has a policy KLGA that states in part, "In general, the School Committee discourages SROs and other law enforcement authorities from using the schools as a venue to arrest and/or question students for activities not related to or affecting the schools." Educators and school officials know that if law enforcement were to approach, question, or detain any student, parent, or staff on school property, or during transportation to school, it would have an immediate negative impact for the school community's sense of safety, and therefore a negative impact on our learning environment.

As of last July, ICE has become the [highest funded U.S. law enforcement agency](#), while at the same time coming under increasing criticism for its officers' actions, such as masked agents randomly stopping, questioning, and detaining people and [thrusting them into unmarked vehicles](#) recent killings of [Renee Good](#) in and [Alex Pretti](#) in Minnesota. Since ICE's threats to public safety and health are likely to continue, Maine should act now to ensure our schools, daycares, hospitals, and libraries are as legally safe as possible as places to receive an education, receive care, and to work.

Please vote 'Ought to Pass' on LD 2106. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Julia Harper

