

Ben Conniff
Portland
LD 2106

Dear Honorable Members of the Judiciary Committee,

I write to express my strong support for LD 2106.

Recent immigration enforcement actions, which have gotten particularly heinous during the offensively-named "Operation Catch of the Day," have made our community incredibly unsafe. Rather than targeted enforcement seeking to arrest violent criminals, masked, untrained, lethally armed ICE agents have assaulted and detained huge numbers of legally authorized residents and people with no criminal record. A Cato Institute report has shown that around the country, 73% of people detained by ICE had no criminal record at all, much less a violent or dangerous one.

In a time when agents are committing acts of lawless violence with impunity and racially profiling, it is terrifying for a huge number of our community members to leave their homes. There need to be safe places where they can get basic needs met at the very least without the fear of being hauled away from their families.

This law may not prevent all violations committed by people who do not respect our laws but it will provide clarity and guidance for the heroic people working in these institutions, some bolstered amount of safety for our neighbors, and a better chance of holding agents who break the law accountable. It will also send a clear message that our state is not ok with the federal government flooding our streets with violent law breakers.

Thank you for your consideration.