

Imke Schessler
Bangor
LD 2106

My name is Imke Schessler. I'm a mom, community volunteer, and proud member of Local 4593 - the part time faculty union at the University of Maine.

As an educator, I am familiar with security protocols and safety drills. I'm not new to this rodeo. At the start of every term, I assess my classroom and figure out what I can do to keep my students safe in the event of violence. When formulating those plans, I think about how we'll quickly lock and barricade doors and I know who to call for help when an intruder is threatening my students.

This year, my threat assessment and planning protocol is complicated by the fact that the most likely threat we face comes in the form of armed federal agents with the freedom to enter my classroom without warning or judicial warrant.

During a conversation with my students last week, we discussed the potential threat of ICE entering our classroom and what we would do to keep people safe. I told them that, as their teacher, I will always put myself between them and whatever threat shows up at our door. How many of you have had to say that while simply trying to do your job?

I have learned my legal rights when it comes to documenting ICE activity, and I have completed de-escalation training. But I have no legal way to stop ICE from entering my classroom.

Requiring ICE to present a valid judicial warrant signed by a judge before conducting enforcement in schools, hospitals, healthcare facilities, daycares, and libraries is common-sense policy. It helps ensure safety and allows educators and healthcare workers to focus on the work they are there to do.

I am willing to do whatever I need to do to keep my students safe. LD2106 will not solve everything — but it provides one more line of defense. It could buy precious moments that allow students to get to safety.

As a parent and as an educator, I urge you to support the passage of LD2106.