

Valerie Adams
Pownal
LD 2106

Members of the Judiciary Committee:

As an attorney, I have represented asylum seekers from around the world, each one with a different story to tell, and each one determined to persevere. I have listened in awe, as a volunteer with the Immigrant Legal Advocacy Project, as people described their flight from their homes, traveling from one border to the next, and then to the United States, and then, a phone call, a bus ticket, and arriving in Portland, Maine, ready to start a new life in a place of freedom. People come here seeking refuge, and my heart has been broken over the last year, watching what is happening to our country, knowing that these people in particular have lost that sense of relief that they worked so hard to find. Now they are afraid again.

We all deserve to feel safe and secure, especially in spaces like schools and hospitals. We shouldn't need LD 2106, but sadly we do, because it has become clear that some of us will not be safe without it. We need to stand together in protecting our neighbors and communities, and that is why I support LD 2106 and urge you to do the same.