

David Conwell
Brunswick
LD 2106

I would like to testify in support of LD 2106, a bill that would prohibit immigration enforcement from entering public institutions, including public schools, hospitals, libraries, and childcare facilities.

I have not trusted immigration enforcement for many years, and recent events in Maine, Minnesota, and elsewhere have demonstrated I was on the right side of the issue. For example, immigration authorities have spoken continually of wishing to detain only the "worst of the worst," but diligent analysis of the available records shows that agents have detained plenty of individuals who either have committed no crime or had committed a crime at some point but had already been penalized.

Immigrants are the backbone of many sectors of our economy. A friend of mine tells me that immigration agents recently attempted to bluff their way into her assisted living facility outside Boston. They were turned away because they had no warrant, but had these agents gained access and seized aides at the facility--as they said they planned to do--short-staffing would have been the result. It is easier said than done to fill empty positions in such facilities with American citizens.

Immigrants (and others) who commit crimes in this country should certainly be penalized, but I urge you to pass LD 2106 in order to help safeguard good people who help drive Maine's economy. Until our immigration authorities cease targeting such people, we should bar immigration agents from public institutions.