

Cassie Nedwell

Cape Elizabeth, Maine

January 29, 2026

Senator Carney, Representative Kuhn and members of the Judicial committee, Thank you for the opportunity to provide my testimony with you today. My name is Cassie Nedwell, and I am a resident of Cape Elizabeth.

As a person of color, a mother to biracial children, and an ally to immigrant families, I am testifying in support of LD 2106 because this bill speaks directly to concerns that weigh on me every single day, the safety and wellbeing of my family, our friends, and our community.

This fear has recently been overwhelmingly exacerbated by the intense surge of ICE presence in our state. It is clear from their actions that they are targeting people based on the color of their skin, as evidenced by the detainment of several “legal” people and citizens. To have to live in fear every day, looking over your shoulder everywhere you go is not just exhausting, it is inhumane. This is why it is so important to have designated spaces that are safe, including schools where we go to learn and expand our education, libraries where we seek knowledge, and healthcare facilities where we receive care for ourselves and our loved ones. These are places where trust is essential.

When immigration law enforcement officers can access these spaces or obtain sensitive records without proper oversight or consent, it undermines that trust completely. As a mother raising biracial children in this environment, I worry constantly about what could happen if one mistaken identity or misunderstanding were to occur at school or another public facility. This is a real and immediate fear for families who have seen neighbors questioned or detained simply because they looked “different.” No parent should have to send their child to school and wonder if they will make it home today, or wonder if they themselves will make it home after dropping their child off.

This bill offers important protections by ensuring voluntary assistance with immigration enforcement is only granted when required by law, and not simply as a matter of convenience or misunderstanding. It will set clear guidelines for staff at schools and other critical institutions so they aren’t left making difficult decisions alone under pressure, which has very clearly been the case these last couple of weeks.

I urge you to support this bill, not only for immigrant families but for all those who value privacy, dignity, and fairness in our public spaces. Our community deserves policies rooted in compassion rather than fear, policies that reassure us that schools will remain centers of learning rather than potential points of crisis,

that hospitals will focus on healing instead of causing additional trauma, that libraries will continue opening doors rather than closing them off through intimidation. Please stand with mothers like me, who want nothing more than safety, security, and respect for all our children. Thank you for your time today.

I am urging you to vote Ought to Pass on LD 2106 not only for immigrant families but for all those who value privacy, dignity, and fairness in our public spaces. Our community deserves policies rooted in compassion rather than fear, policies that reassure us that schools will remain centers of learning rather than potential points of crisis, that hospitals will focus on healing instead of causing additional trauma, that libraries will continue opening doors rather than closing them off through intimidation. Please stand with mothers like me, who want nothing more than safety, security, and respect for all our children.

Thank you,

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