

Kelly Merrill
Maine Green Independent Party
LD 2106

Re bill no: LD 2106, the "Sensitive Spaces bill"
Position: MGIP urges Judiciary to vote OTP on LD 2106
Assigned Committee: Joint Cmt on the Judiciary
Public hearing date: January 29th

Good afternoon Chairs Sen. Anne Carney, Rep. Kuhn, and honored members of the Joint Standing Committee on the Judiciary.

My name is Kelly Merrill and am testifying in my capacity as the Co-Chair to the Maine Green Independent Party, which represents 37K members statewide. Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of emergency measure LD 2106, the Sensitive Spaces bill.

We recognize ICE as a rogue agency that has engaged in an illegal campaign of terror and racial profiling against communities across the country. Black, Brown, and Indigenous citizens, tribal members, and citizens alike are being abducted from job sites, daycares, hospitals, restaurants, vehicles, and courthouses. And those who voice opposition to these crimes are being labeled domestic terrorists and shot dead in the street for documenting. The whole country is experiencing collective trauma because of the terror.

This is an emboldened, brutal paramilitary force bent on ripping families apart. They have little training, no discipline and have wreaked havoc across the country, including here in Maine.

The Sensitive Spaces bill would be one measure to ensure that ICE has engaged in a modicum of due process, punctuating and clarifying the unequivocal need for a signed judicial warrant. Families and children are supposed to feel safe to receive medical care and education without terror. This is essential for the protection of all those who reside in the US, including US citizens.

LD 2106 would prevent ICE from accessing the most sensitive spaces of our society without cause, ensuring that public libraries, healthcare facilities, pre-schools and other educational facilities cannot be targeted by the actions of the Administration's occupying force that has proven itself indiscriminate, violent, and lethal. This is a matter of safety in the public interest.

During the past year, we have sustained assaults on the 1st, 2nd, 4th and 10th amendments. Our Republic is in danger of collapsing due to the lawlessness. You must protect the people.

I urge this committee vote ought to pass on LD 2106.

Respectfully submitted,

Kelly Merrill
Co-chair, Maine Green Independent Party