



Janet T. Mills
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MAINE
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
1 STATE HOUSE STATION
AUGUSTA, MAINE
04333-0001

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Testimony of Governor Janet T. Mills
Before the 132nd Legislature, Joint Standing Committee on Judiciary

In Support of LD 2106

An Act to Prohibit the Disclosure of Nonpublic Records Without Proper Judicial Review

Senator Carney, Representative Kuhn, and members of the Joint Standing Committee on Judiciary, I am here today to testify in support of LD 2106.

This bill prohibits a person acting on behalf of a public school, state postsecondary educational institution, health care facility, child care facility, family child care provider or public library from providing voluntary consent permitting a law enforcement officer engaged in immigration enforcement or supporting immigration enforcement to enter a nonpublic area of a public school, state postsecondary educational institution, health care facility, child care facility, home of a family child care provider or public library or access, review or obtain student, patient or library records.

This bill comes at an important moment.

This morning, it was reported that the Federal government has ended its “enhanced operation” in the State of Maine – an operation in which the Trump Administration deployed masked law enforcement onto our streets, took – without explanation – people who appear to have been here legally and who have committed no crimes, including law enforcement officials; stoked fear in our communities; and threatened the civil rights and liberties of our people. The Administration has so far not revealed the full extent of the identities of the people they have arrested. The people of Maine deserve to know the identities of every person taken from here, the legal justification for doing so, where they are being held, and what the Federal government’s plan for them are.

During this time, my Administration has heard from school districts who have experienced a significant drop in student attendance stemming from a fear of Federal agents approaching children at their school or at their bus stop. We have seen reports of Federal agents separating mothers from their children and detaining law enforcement officials. These actions have only sowed intimidation and fear within our communities.



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As I have said, if the Federal government has warrants, it should show them. Therefore, I strongly support a change to State law prohibiting any Federal agents who do not have a valid judicial warrant from entering non-public areas of our public schools, institutions of higher education, health care and child care facilities or public libraries. The bottom line is this: while the Federal government ignores the Constitutional rights guaranteed to us all, Maine will defend them – and this bill accomplishes that.

As the Judiciary Committee considers this bill, there are likely questions to be addressed. I encourage the Committee to work through those issues and produce a bill that achieves the important underlying intent.

But let it be said clearly and loudly: Maine will continue to stand for due process, for public safety, for the rule of law, and for the Constitutional rights of all.



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