



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
2 STATE HOUSE STATION
AUGUSTA, MAINE 04333-0002
(207) 287-1400
TTY: MAINE RELAY 711

Kelly Noonan Murphy

Phone: (207) 318-3215

Kelly.murphy@legislature.maine.gov

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*Testimony of Kelly Noonan Murphy in support of
LD 2106, An Act to Prohibit the Disclosure of Nonpublic Records Without
Proper Judicial Review
Before the Joint Standing Committee on Judiciary*

Good afternoon, Sen. Carney, Rep. Kuhn and members of the Judiciary Committee. My name is Rep. Kelly Murphy, and I represent District 125, which includes part of Scarborough. Today, I am here to support **LD 2106, An Act to Prohibit the Disclosure of Nonpublic Records Without Proper Judicial Review**.

At its heart, this bill is about our children and about what we promise them when we ask them to walk through the doors of a school or a child care center each day. In Maine, we believe those places should be safe. We believe they should be steady. And we believe they should be focused on learning, care and growth, not fear.

Schools and childcare facilities are more than buildings. They are where children form their first sense of belonging. They are where families build trust with educators and caregivers. And they are often the first place where a family learns whether government institutions are worthy of their trust. When immigration enforcement activity occurs in or around these sensitive spaces without clear judicial oversight, that trust is damaged and children pay the price.

We have heard from educators and early childhood providers across our state about what happens when fear enters these environments. Families keep children home. Attendance drops. Children miss instruction and early developmental opportunities that cannot be easily replaced. Parents withdraw from school events, meetings and support services. And that fear does not stay at the door; it follows children into classrooms.

No child should be trying to learn while fearing that their attendance might put their family at risk. No teacher should have to reassure students that school is still a safe place. And no child care provider should have to choose between caring for children and navigating enforcement activity at their doorstep.

LD 2106 draws a clear and reasonable boundary. It does not interfere with lawful enforcement. It simply says that when it comes to schools, child care facilities and other sensitive locations, access to nonpublic spaces and records should require proper judicial authorization.

This bill also gives educators and child care providers something they have been asking for: clarity. These professionals are not immigration experts. They are teachers and caregivers. LD 2106 gives them clear guidance so they can stay focused on the work they were trained to do: serving children.

Maine's future depends on our children showing up to school ready to learn and feeling safe enough to do so. That requires trust. It requires stability. And it requires us to protect the spaces where childhood happens.

LD 2106 reflects Maine values: fairness, dignity and a deep commitment to putting children first. I urge you to support this bill.