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Rep. Amubreen Rana 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

Senator Carney, Representative Kuhn, and distinguished members of the Joint Standing Committee on Judiciary, good afternoon. My name is Ambureen Rana, and I represent House District 21, which includes part of Bangor. I am honored to stand before you as a cosponsor and supporter of **LD 2106, An Act to Prohibit Disclosure of Nonpublic Records Without Proper Judicial Review**.

I stood before you, nearly a year ago, to present legislation addressing the harmful tactics used by Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) and Customs and Border Protection (CBP). The issue we are contending with today is not new. As the months have gone by, ICE's presence in our state has brought terror and destabilization to our communities.

ICE and CBP are using inhumane tactics in their enforcement, and completely disregarding the law. We've seen widespread reports of federal agents driving recklessly and violating traffic laws, in communities across Maine. We've witnessed them threaten peaceful protestors and observers with chemical weapons, verbal abuse, and threats to be labeled as domestic terrorists. The real terror is imposing this harm on those seeking the basic right to education, healthcare, and public resources.

The unsafe and violent climate created by the presence of federal agents in our state is forcing Mainers to stay home. Their unlawful tactics are sending a chilling effect of fear to our community members. We have witnessed them stalking at schools, instilling fear in the youngest of our community members. People have withdrawn from society, staying home and sheltering in place. Over the last week, streets that are known for their bustling vibrancy have been left empty and quiet. We've seen reports of hospitals in staffing shortages. Maine is not functioning to its optimal capacity right now, with so many of our residents hiding in fear.

Children are not being sent to school. Mainers are not reporting to work. People are not applying for open jobs. Lawfully present students are considering unenrolling from school, adult education programs, and denying opportunities to study abroad. Lawfully present residences are afraid to exercise their first amendment rights.

The damage from this last week will have lasting effects on our communities. Immigration lawyers will be fighting these cases for months and years to come.

Just this last week, federal agents have arrested over 200 people in Maine. They claim that they are going after violent criminals, but what we are witnessing proves that is far from the truth. They are racially profiling indiscriminately. No one in our community feels safe, citizen or not. It is reported that over 170 U.S. citizens were detained by ICE last year.

This bill is a common-sense measure that will bring reassurance, peace of mind, and a sense of safety to Mainers, regardless of their documentation status.

All Mainers deserve basic human dignity. All Mainers deserve this regardless of their documentation status. The ability to go to school safely, the ability to seek healthcare, the ability to seek resources in a library, must be protected. ICE and CBP do not belong in these places. Their presence sparks fear and chaos. It is our duty as legislators to ensure safe access in these community spaces.

Today, Mainers stand united. Despite the federal government's attempts to divide us with racial scapegoating, as they escalated their reign of hatred against the immigrant community. We see right through the narrative they are painting.

Following me this afternoon are voices of courage, resilience, and unwavering love for all Mainers.

Thank you for your time, and I look forward to having your support in making these vital protections law.