



TESTIMONY OF ALICIA REA, ESQ.
LD 2106 – Ought to Pass

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

Joint Standing Committee on Judiciary

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Senator Carney, Representative Kuhn, and distinguished members of the Joint Standing Committee on Judiciary, greetings. My name is Alicia Rea, and I am a policy fellow for the American Civil Liberties Union of Maine, a statewide organization committed to advancing and preserving civil liberties guaranteed by the Maine and U.S. Constitutions. On behalf of our members, I urge you to support LD 2106.

Maine communities deserve safety. This bill seeks to provide that safety in vital community spaces.

In a time when immigrants are under constant attack, they should be able to feel secure in their communities. However, the repeal of the Department of Homeland Security’s “sensitive locations” policy has left these spaces at risk for indiscriminate civil immigration enforcement and warrantless searches by the government. Since these guidelines have been removed, there have been numerous enforcement actions at previously protected locations, many of which have led to arrests, deportations, and civil liberties violations.

One population that has become particularly vulnerable are immigrant students and families. Instances of ICE and CBP patrolling near schools has caused panic in our communities, including an ICE arrest at Talbot Community School in September 2025.¹ The continued threats and presence of immigration enforcement officials at our schools are enough to have a chilling effect on access to education. According to the National Education

¹ Riley Board, *ICE arrest of parent near Portland school prompts concern from officials, families*, Portland Press Herald, Sept. 12, 2025, available at <https://www.pressherald.com/2025/09/12/detention-of-parent-near-portland-school-is-traumatic-for-community-board-chair-says/>.



AMERICAN CIVIL LIBERTIES UNION

Maine

Association, educators across the country have reported significant increases in absenteeism since the sensitive locations policy was rescinded.²

Schools are not the only sensitive location seeing immigrant community members pushed out by fear of immigration enforcement. Healthcare facilities report missed or delayed appointments by immigrants, out of fear for enforcement.³

When immigrants are prevented from accessing important community hubs, our communities are less safe for everyone. Making immigrants fear deportation while taking their children to school or seeking medical care makes Maine communities less healthy and less secure. It undermines our state's values and has dangerous implications for our core freedoms.

Adding public colleges and universities to the list of sensitive locations extends protections to more students, particularly those seeking an education in the U.S. on visas, in these uncertain times. As the federal administration has unexpectedly and abruptly changed the guidelines and statuses of student visas, international students at Maine's postsecondary institutions challenged.⁴ While this case has since been resolved, students attending Maine's public universities should be able to do so without fear of civil immigration enforcement interrupting their studies.

Public libraries also feature in this legislation, protecting another location that meets public needs and must remain safe for Maine communities. Often, libraries serve as temporary warming and cooling locations for municipalities, which should be open and accessible to all who need these services. By requiring a judicial warrant for federal immigration enforcement entry, this bill strengthens Maine communities.

While this legislation adds protections for sensitive locations, it does not prohibit federal law enforcement from executing valid judicial warrants. However, it will ensure that immigrants may access community hubs without fear of intimidation or indiscriminate civil immigration

² Brenda Alvarez, *The Trauma Immigration Raids Leave in Classrooms*, NEA Today, Sept. 10, 2025, available at <https://www.nea.org/nea-today/all-news-articles/trauma-immigration-raids-leave-classrooms>.

³ Kristen Schorsch, *Fearful amid ICE crackdowns, some immigrants are skipping health care*, NPR, Feb. 10, 2025, available at <https://www.congress.gov/119/meeting/house/117980/documents/HHRG-119-GO00-20250305-SD035.pdf>.

⁴ *Pasula v. U.S. Dept. Of Homeland Security, et al.*, 1:25-CV-00156 (D.N.H. Apr. 18, 2025).



enforcement. This legislation will provide Maine communities with an important accountability measure to help keep sensitive locations safe.

We urge you to vote ~~ought~~ to pass on LD 2106.