



Senator Carney, Representative Kuhn, and members of the Joint Standing Committee on the Judiciary, my name is Lisa Margulies, I serve as Vice President of Public Affairs, Maine, for Planned Parenthood of Northern New England (PPNNE), and I am pleased to submit testimony in support of LD 2106.

PPNNE provides comprehensive reproductive and sexual health care to approximately 10,000 patients per year in Maine at four health centers located in Biddeford, Portland, Sanford, and Topsham, in addition to online via telehealth. People turn to us for affordable, high-quality care including wellness exams, birth control, disease testing and treatment, cancer screenings, immunizations, gender-affirming care, abortion care, as well as a spectrum of primary and behavioral health care services.

As a mission driven health care provider, we fundamentally believe everyone should be able to access affordable, high quality sexual and reproductive health care in their communities, no matter where they live or how much money they make, and we advocate for policies that help make this vision a reality. All people deserve to access comprehensive reproductive health care, including abortion and gender-affirming care, free from shame, stigma, and intimidation. We see everyone who comes to us regardless of ability to pay, and in a typical year, we provide more than \$1.25 million dollars in free and discounted care to our communities in Maine. For many, we are their only access to the health care system.

PPNNE proudly provides care to countless Mainers regardless of race, ethnicity, religion, country of origin, or income, and we have advocated for the passage of laws that protect and secure basic rights and freedoms. Our hearts are heavy as we witness federal Immigrations and Customs Enforcement (ICE) enter Maine and target family, friends, and neighbors through a large-scale operation that has left many feeling scared and uncertain. The recent surge of ICE operations in Maine and in other states throughout the country is deeply disconnected from our values of freedom, dignity and safety for all. The indifference to established law and the separation of families are destabilizing and rip at the fabric of our community.

I want to be very clear: Targeting people in Maine is targeting our patients, our supporters, our volunteers, and our staff.

PPNNE stands with our community. We stand in solidarity with organizations and individuals working around the clock to help our immigrant and BIPOC friends and neighbors stay safe and connect with resources they may need during this time.

It is important to highlight the impact of the ICE surge on health care providers and the patients they serve. Last year, the Department of Homeland Security under President Trump rescinded the "Protected Areas" policy¹ that prohibited immigration enforcement at or near schools, places of worship, hospitals, health centers or locations deemed "protected areas."² In areas experiencing increased immigration enforcement, patients have delayed both preventative and at times even urgently needed medical care.³ These are not theoretical concerns, as at-risk individuals are going unvaccinated during the height of flu season, pregnant women are skipping prenatal visits,⁴ and in at least one case parents have delayed seeking care for a child with appendicitis.⁵ These fears are real and valid. In one case in Minneapolis last month, ICE agents entered a hospital without a judicial warrant and handcuffed a patient to a bed while they were being treated.⁶ In one survey, more than 80% of health care workers who serve immigrant populations reported a moderate or significant decrease in patient visits since the change in "protected areas" policy and 26% stated that immigration enforcement had directly impacted patient care.⁷

¹ Morton, John, "Enforcement Actions at or Focused on Sensitive Locations, *US ICE Memorandum*, October 24, 2011, <https://www.ice.gov/doclib/ero-outreach/pdf/10029.2-policy.pdf> ; expanded in 2021 w/ expansion Memo pulled offline by Trump admin (https://www.dhs.gov/sites/default/files/publications/21_1027_opa_guidelines-enforcement-actions-in-near-protected-areas.pdf)

² Huffman, Benjamin, "Enforcement Actions in or Near Protected Areas", *DHS Memorandum*, January 20, 2025, https://www.dhs.gov/sites/default/files/2025-03/25_0120_S1_enforcement-actions-in-near-protected-areas.pdf

³ "Consequences of Fear: How the Trump Administration's Immigration Policies and Rhetoric Block Access to Health Care" *Physicians for Human Rights*, PHR Research Brief, April 2025, https://phr.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/04/Consequences-of-Fear_Research-Brief_PHR_April-2025.pdf

⁴ Ibid.

⁵ Szabo, Liz, "Minnesota residents delay medical care for fear of encountering ICE", *Center for Infectious Disease Research and Policy*, January 16, 2026, <https://www.cidrap.umn.edu/influenza-general/minnesota-residents-delay-medical-care-fear-encountering-ice>

⁶ Rantala, Jason, "ICE entered Minnesota hospital without warrant, handcuffed patient to bed, community members say", *CBS News*, January 7, 2026, <https://www.cbsnews.com/minnesota/news/hcmc-hennepin-healthcare-ice-patient-handcuffed/>

⁷ "ICE Tactics and Deportation Fear Limit Access to Health Care for Children of Immigrants: Survey", *Physicians for Human Rights*, Press Release, November 19, 2025, <https://phr.org/news/ice-tactics-and-deportation-fears-limit-access-to-health-care-for-children-of-immigrants-survey/>



While this bill cannot solve the crisis our community faces, LD 2106 provides an additional layer of protection for patients and health care providers by barring facilities from providing immigration enforcement with voluntary consent to access non-public areas. The second aspect of LD 2106, barring facilities from providing records to immigration enforcement, is also crucial to safeguard patients and prevent a climate of fear that restricts access to care. PPNNE broadly supports policies that protect individuals' right to privacy and control over their personal information, particularly in a climate where this information is being weaponized not only in the context of immigration enforcement, but also with respect to abortion and transgender health care. If patients do not feel their records are protected, they may avoid accessing the health care they need. Your personal health care data should never be used against you regardless of age, race, gender, or immigration status. Patient health information should be private, period.

LD 2106 is also an important statement of Maine values—who we are as a community. PPNNE is proud to support this bill as a trusted provider of health care to anyone who comes to us, regardless of race, religion, country of origin, immigration status, zip code, gender identity, or ability to pay. We will continue to fight to ensure everyone can access the care they deserve and lead their lives with dignity, agency, and the freedom to control their bodies and futures. It is for all these reasons that we support LD 2106 and strongly urge this committee to vote "Ought to Pass."