

My name is Bee Berks. I am one of the thousands of registered nurses practicing in Maine. In nursing, we adhere to a Code of Ethics that serves as a moral compass while providing care. The very first provision of this code states, "The nurse practices with compassion and respect for the inherent dignity, worth, and unique attributes of every person." To me, there is no ambiguity in what that means. I am speaking in favor of LD 2106 because every person deserves safe access to basic services like healthcare and education. I have heard stories from friends, neighbors, and coworkers about the cruelty, intimidation, and terror they are experiencing at the hands of ICE. I have seen videos of people being snatched out of our communities. People are afraid to leave their homes, to go to work, to seek medical assistance, and to send their children to school. This is inhumane. We have a moral responsibility to institute safeguards for our fellow Mainers being targeted by these unethical practices. LD 2106 can provide a first layer by protecting non-public spaces of hospitals, schools, and libraries, and ensuring information is protected. It additionally protects those of us who will refuse to comply without a valid judicial warrant. It is difficult to comprehend how we have not already implemented actions in this direction. Historically, targeting hospitals and schools is considered a war crime. I encourage you today to employ the ethics of a nurse. Have compassion and recognize that all people have inherent worth. Do what you can to protect our community. Thank you.