

January 29, 2026

Senator Carney, Representative Kuhn, and members of the Joint Standing Judiciary Committee:

My name is Annie Kiermaier. I am a resident of Rockport. I am testifying in support of LD 2106. As a retired mental health clinician (LCSW) specializing in the mental health of young children, I am very concerned about the terror and trauma that many children in Maine, both immigrant and native-born, are facing today.

To quote the American Psychological Association: "The escalation in violence centered on immigrant communities is not consistent with decades of psychological research that clearly demonstrate how harmful living in a state of constant fear is to human beings."

"Psychological science is clear: detention, deportation, family separation, and the constant threat of such actions create chronic stress that increases anxiety, depression, trauma-related symptoms, and long-term health risks. These harms are especially severe for children, whose emotional development depends on stable and secure caregiving relationships."

"The impact reverberates beyond immigrant families. Research shows that the kinds of far-reaching actions we are witnessing generate fear, hyper-vigilance and mistrust in communities regardless of immigration status, especially if US citizens, immigrants, and asylum seekers have been detained without just cause. This climate of fear disrupts schools, healthcare access, workplaces, and community life, weakening the social connections that protect mental health for everyone."

LD 2106 will give Mainers tools to protect people from ICE in schools, health care facilities, child care facilities, and libraries which will contribute to all Mainers feeling safer and able to access essential services.

I urge you to vote Ought to Pass on LD 2106

Thank you,
Annie Kiermaier
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