



# Maine Conservation Voters

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Testimony of Anna Brown, Board President, Maine Conservation Voters

In Support of LD 2106

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

Before the Judiciary Committee

January 29, 2026

Senator Carney, Representative Kuhn, and Members of the Judiciary Committee:

My name is Anna Brown, and I am the board president of Maine Conservation Voters, an organization committed to protecting the environment, our democracy, and our climate future. We urge you to support LD 2106.

This bill is about two things that are fundamental to Maine today and for our state's future: **the health and resilience of our communities** and **the strength of our democracy**. These goals are deeply ~~connected~~—and both are undermined when immigration enforcement intrudes into the very institutions that hold our communities together.

Public schools, hospitals, child care facilities, and libraries are not incidental spaces. They are **critical civic infrastructure**. They are places where people access education, health care, information, safety, and stability – both during quiet times and during periods of crisis. As climate change brings more extreme storms, heat waves, and in the face of public health emergencies and economic disruption, these institutions become even more essential to community resilience.

When immigrant communities—and particularly Black, Brown, and Indigenous people—are made to fear these spaces, the harm extends far beyond immigration policy. Families avoid schools and clinics. Public health information goes unshared. Children lose access to education, meals, and stability. Workers cannot go to their jobs because they cannot safely send their children to school or daycare. The entire community becomes strained and less prepared to weather climate disasters and other emergencies.

LD 2106 helps reduce that harm by ensuring these institutions remain accessible and trusted by everyone in Maine.

But this bill is also fundamentally about **democracy and the rule of law**.

For decades, administrations of both parties recognized that immigration enforcement should not occur in sensitive locations like schools and hospitals. These protections were grounded in commonsense public policy and respect for constitutional principles. That consensus has been dismantled. We are now witnessing immigration enforcement practices that operate without due process, rely on fear and intimidation, and too often disregard constitutional limits.

Under the Constitution, law enforcement may not enter nonpublic spaces or access private records without a valid judicial warrant—unless voluntary consent is given. LD 2106 simply makes clear that Maine will not provide that voluntary consent in places where doing so endangers public health, safety, and democratic norms.

This clarity matters. It protects teachers, health care workers, child care providers, and librarians from being placed in impossible situations. It affirms that Maine's public institutions will not be deputized into participating in enforcement practices that erode trust, violate civil liberties, and undermine democratic accountability.

We have already seen the consequences of unchecked enforcement in Maine. In September 2025, immigration agents conducted an arrest in an elementary school driveway in Portland—an action that caused widespread fear and trauma and raised serious questions about necessity, proportionality, and due process. With new ICE operations underway in Maine and abductions of immigrants who have legal right to live here and have no criminal record, the urgency of LD 2106 cannot be overstated.

More than 21,000 U.S. citizen children live in Maine with at least one non-citizen parent. Already several of those children are living through the horrors of having a parent taken away. Others live in terror. When government actions make schools, hospitals, and libraries feel unsafe, those children—and our democracy—pay the price.

A healthy democracy depends on functioning, trusted public institutions. A climate-resilient Maine depends on communities where everyone can access care, education, and information without fear. LD 2106 advances both. It strengthens public health, supports workers, protects children, and reaffirms Maine's commitment to the rule of law and democratic values.

For these reasons, Maine Conservation Voters strongly urges the Committee to support LD 2106.

Thank you for your time and consideration.