

Testimony of Bramm Watkin
January 29, 2026

LD 2106: An Act to Prohibit the Disclosure of Nonpublic Records Without Proper Judicial Review

Thank you all for being here today to discuss this issue. My name is Bramm Watkin and I am here from Portland to speak in support of proposed bill LD 2106.

Having recently transitioned into the field of education in the Portland area, I have become intimately aware of the need for the safety of all who rely on our public school system. Public schools stand as a promise of security and an investment in our community. I believe LD 2106 is a crucial step in protecting all those who depend on our public schools for their children, as community members, or for their employment from the recent intimidation of masked federal immigration officers in our communities.

Right now, these places of community and safety are overwhelmed with fear and anxiety. As I.C.E. agents have violently disrupted and harmed the lives of our neighbors, public schools (and other settings of public use proposed in this bill) have transitioned from homes for connection and security to nodes of fear and concern. This bill would communicate to all public school parents, students, and employees that they are safe from the threat of violence and abduction.

Our public schools are our communities' promise to our children and our neighbor's children of a safe place for growth and recreation. There are more than 21,000 U.S. citizen children in Maine who have at least one non-citizen parent. It is your responsibility to protect these citizens, as they are in need of greater care and support now more than ever. These children deserve, and have a right, to the same safety and comfort we all enjoy. Yet now, many do not go to school out of fear for their family's future. We must protect our public schools from the harmful intimidation of federal agents seeking to abduct our neighbors and let every public school student, parent and employee know they are safe.

I urge you to move forward with this bill, thank you for your time.