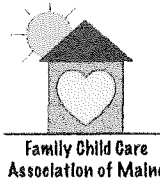




maineaeYC

Maine Association for the
Education of Young Children



**Family Child Care
Association of Maine**

Testimony of Rachel Stinson

On behalf of the Maine Association for the Education of Young
Children

And the Family Child Care Association of Maine

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

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

My name is Rachel Stinson, and I am testifying on behalf of the Maine Association for the Education of Young Children and the Family Child Care Association of Maine. These Organizations represent early childhood educators and child care providers across the state, the vast majority of whom are small business owners.

Every single day, child care providers carry an immense responsibility: ensuring that every child in their care is picked up safe, happy, and by the right person. Parents trust them with what matters most. That responsibility is constant, heavy, and non-negotiable.

To meet it, providers already operate under extensive safety requirements. They maintain plans for fires, severe weather, active threats, and intruders. They verify who is authorized to pick up a child. They follow court orders in custody disputes. They make real-time safety decisions under pressure, often while caring for multiple young children with limited staff.

What they cannot carry is uncertainty.

Right now, child care providers are being asked—implicitly or explicitly—to navigate immigration enforcement without clear legal guardrails. They are not trained law enforcement officers. They are not lawyers. They are not trained to determine who has a legitimate badge, who “looks the part,” or what authority someone may or may not have to enter their space or access records.

That puts providers in an impossible position. If they get it wrong, children could be put at risk, families could be harmed, and providers could face serious legal consequences. The stress of that uncertainty is already causing real fear and confusion in a workforce that is stretched to its breaking point.

This bill provides what child care providers desperately need: clarity.

By requiring proper judicial warrants or clearly defined exigent circumstances, this legislation gives providers a safety net. It gives them a clear, consistent standard they can rely on when making safety decisions in the moment. It does not interfere with lawful enforcement. It does not prevent compliance with federal law. It simply ensures that child care settings are not left to navigate enforcement activity based on guesswork or fear.

When we ask child care providers to protect children, we must also protect them with clear rules. This bill does exactly that.

MaineAEYC strongly urges your support for this legislation and thanks you for recognizing the unique responsibility child care providers carry every day.

Thank you.