

January 29, 2026

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

My name is Michaela Loisel, I am a proud lifelong Mainer living in Hallowell. I am here today to urge passage of LD 2106 An Act to Prohibit the Disclosure of Nonpublic Records Without Proper Judicial Review.

I speak today as a proud lifelong Mainer and a Unitarian Universalist who believes that all people have dignity and worth and it is our responsibility to love others.

I grew up here in Augusta. As a Franco American Catholic, I learned from my father that French people in Maine were less than, were mistreated, frankly, as though they were stupid because their primary language was French, not English. In fact, like many, my father was punished in school when he slipped and spoke french. Unsurprisingly, we were not taught french at home- for our own good.

That literally was a shame- franco americans were shamed for who they were and I learned growing up, to be ashamed of my heritage. I know there are many other Mainers even in the halls of the state house that had similar experiences growing up.

I had the pleasure of getting to know a lovely young couple- immigrants- who were about to have their first child. The husband left his country because he was being threatened and beaten by government officials for supporting civil rights for gays and lesbians - his crime in his country was protesting against his government. He held a good job in Maine where his skills were sought after by his employer - he was a valued employee. Then, one day driving to the worksite, he was stopped by border patrol and immediately sent out to the midwest for processing, leaving his very pregnant wife alone and without his income. I am glad to say that this case had a "happy ending" in that he was ultimately released from detention and allowed to come home to his wife. Sadly, In this current environment, you might say, they are among the lucky ones.

Now, Mainers are being shown that Immigrants are not wanted here- their lives are not valued, they are being ripped out of cars in Portland, Maine. We've heard the stories and there will be more. Maine can and must do better than what we are seeing across this country.

I urge support for this legislation prohibiting ICE from entering schools, hospitals and healthcare facilities, daycare, and libraries without a valid judicial warrant signed by a judge.

It is the least we can do.

Thank you for the hard work you are all doing here -you are valued public servants.

Sincerely, Michaela Loisel, 4 The Ledges, Hallowell, Maine 04347