

TESTIMONY

In Support Of

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

Joint Standing Committee on Judiciary

Room 220, Cross Building, Augusta, Maine

Thursday, January 29, 2026

Senator Carney, Representative Kuhn and Members of the Judiciary Committee, my name is Lani Graham, MD, MPH. I am a physician from Freeport and the former chief public health officer for Maine submitting testimony in support of LD. 2106

It seems clear, based on what we have seen is happening in Minnesota, that the presence of ICE agents is resulting in chaos and harm. We have heard that only the “worst of the worst, are being taken. But what we have seen is people without any criminal records, and on legal paths to citizenship, being taken on their way to work or going to the grocery store.

This bill assures that all Maine residents can feel safe in certain settings. One of those settings, where we all need to feel safe, is seeking medical care. If you are afraid to get care when sick or injured, there are many adverse consequences for all. Even if you are not concerned about the individual people that might be arrested or removed in a health care setting, continuing to allow these seizures is bad policy is highly likely to deter people from seeking timely medical care and is hugely disruptive to the care being provided in those settings.

When patients fear that accessing care could expose them or a family member to detention, they will delay treatment, avoid follow-up, or not seek care at all. This results in preventable medical emergencies, more advanced illness at presentation, and higher reliance on emergency departments. It also increases uncompensated care and shifts costs onto hospitals, insurers, and taxpayers. Healthcare settings function as essential public infrastructure; using them as enforcement venues undermines early intervention and makes care more expensive and less effective for everyone.

In addition, when immigrant enforcement officers can be expected to enter a health care setting, this may discourage staff who are here legally and following an accepted path to citizenship, to fear coming to work, leaving hospitals and offices shorthanded. And of course, observing other patients being marched away can be a very disturbing spectacle for others, including children, who may be present.

Last, fear of enforcement in healthcare settings increases the risk of infectious disease spread. Children may not be taken to health clinics where they would receive not only health evaluations but also critical vaccinations to protect them from infectious illnesses that could cripple or kill them.

Nevertheless, this bill assures that anyone who is a significant criminal threat can be arrested and removed. All that is needed is the customary judicial arrest warrant.

Maine needs to take these actions now. Please support LD 2106. I would be pleased to answer any questions you might have.

Lani Graham, MD, MPH