

In Support of LD 2016

Testimony of Thomas R. Kelly,

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I write to support LD 2106.

This Act will greatly assist schools, hospitals, day care centers, and libraries in case ICE, CBP, or other immigration police force should seek to enter into **beyond** public spaces, and instead into class rooms, patient rooms, and hospital emergency rooms.

Under the Act, immigration police cannot seek consent from an administrator to go into these private spaces. If ICE feels it needs to go beyond front desks, it will need to seek a judge's permission and obtain a warrant.

The Act will create clarity for ICE and for the institutions. ICE will know Maine's policy. Hospital staff, teachers, librarians, and principals all will know that they have Maine law on their side. They can tell ICE that they have no authority to give ICE permission to go beyond the public places in their facilities.

The Act will tell immigrant students, patients, and patrons that they have the intuition's protection.

The Act is a reasonable response to ICE activities. For illustration of the fear that has gripped health care facilities in Minnesota, look at the press conference of medical workers at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kNXKBoNjCzM>. One doctor in the press conference stated, "I was notified that a clinic was surrounded by masked, armed individuals in orange buses with blacked out windows." The press conference is full of medical staff detailing the problems they have experienced with ICE. Matt Klein, MD, clinician at Mayo Clinic, in practice for 35 years, stated that he has never seen police presence that has resulted in anything like what now is going on at hospitals in Minnesota: "In our hospitals and in our clinics, patients are afraid to come in and seek care, when they do come in ICE is pursuing them, with or without legal means or justification for that, and our medical staff feel intimidated and afraid to do the good work that they do and are impeded from doing that good work."

The Act is carefully drafted, preserving rights and prerogatives under federal statutes – and allowing for unexpected emergency need for access.

The Act addresses the dissemination of guidance by requesting Maine's AG office to issue model language to the intuitions and providing the intuitions 6 months thereafter to adopt policies to apply the law.

The Act addresses the moment now: Maine is facing an emergency, because ICE is here now.