

Testimony in Support of LD 2106

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

Sponsor: Representative Sato

Public Hearing: Judiciary Committee 29th, January 2026, 1:00 PM

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Senator Carney, Representative [REDACTED], and esteemed members of the Judiciary Committee:

My name is Ruben Torres, and I serve as the Advocacy and Policy Manager for the Maine Immigrants' Rights Coalition (MIRC). MIRC is a statewide coalition of more than 100 organizations, including immigrant-led groups, legal service providers, and direct service agencies. Together, we work to improve the economic and social standing of Maine's immigrant communities, recognizing that stable immigrant families strengthen Maine's workforce, public health, and local economies. We are here today in support of LD 2106.

I want to focus my remarks on what we are seeing on the ground in Maine during the current wave of immigration enforcement, and why that reality makes this bill both timely and necessary. MIRC and our partners have been operating a community hotline and working closely with immigrant community leaders across the state. We are hearing consistent reports from families who are afraid to carry out basic daily activities: parents who are afraid to drop their children off at school, and families having difficult conversations with young children about what would happen if a parent does not come home.

We are also hearing from schools and child care providers about increased absences and disengagement, not because families do not value education, but because fear has begun to dictate daily decision-making. This fear is not limited to immigrants; it extends to U.S. citizens, children, and mixed-status families who are deeply rooted in Maine communities. When parents feel unsafe accessing schools, health care facilities, or child care, the impacts extend well beyond immigration policy. They affect educational stability, child development, workforce participation, and public health.

The bill does not interfere with federal law or immigration enforcement authority. Instead, it gives workers at schools, hospitals, libraries, and child care facilities clear guidance, so they are not forced to make legal judgments under pressure, and so families can have greater confidence that these spaces remain safe and accessible.

From a policy perspective, this bill supports Maine's broader interests: keeping parents in the workforce, ensuring children attend school, protecting public health, and maintaining trust in public institutions. These outcomes benefit all Maine residents, regardless of immigration status.

For these reasons, MIRC urges the Committee to support LD 2106. Thank you for your time and consideration.