

Douglas Bermingham
South Portland
LD 2106

To whom it may concern:

I am testifying in favor of LD2106, a bill I feel is essential to protect the safety of everyone in Maine.

What we are seeing develop across the United States in the form of reckless endangerment by ICE officials is a national travesty and a deprivation of democracy. By eliminating the federal policy that prohibited ICE enforcement actions at places like schools and hospitals, President Trump has created a culture of violence and fear that will reverberate for decades.

These tactics are primarily designed to encourage self-deportation, but their secondary and tertiary effects are to terrorize communities into submission and compliance. What we can say for certain is that Americans do not abide harassment by government officials. The only likely outcome of this is to encourage more violence, and ultimately creating a police state.

For decades Democrats and Republicans alike have aligned on the importance of making sure all children, regardless of immigration status, can receive an education (as well as food and other stability provided at school), that all people can seek medical care and share important public health information, and more. LD 2106 will ensure we maintain this crucial level of public safety, as well as pushing back against the rampant lawlessness of our federal government.

We as a State owe it to ourselves to resist these Gestapo tactics.

Such a policy does not pose any significant impediment to law enforcement, and the important public health reasons of ensuring all people could access these places far outweighed immigration enforcement needs.

Now with ICE's new operation underway in Maine, the need for LD 2106 is heightened and even more urgent. There are more than 21,000 U.S. citizen children in Maine who have at least one non-citizen parent. It will be a horrific stain on our history if we choose not to protect these families from these indiscriminate arrests and detentions.

Additionally, this bill will protect all of those who are not at risk of deportation or detainment (although when you read the news, can any of us say with certainty we are not at risk?) For those of us who see our immigrant neighbors as valued members of our society, we too feel the trauma and the pain of the State bearing down on us, the walls closing in.

Under the Constitution, to enter non-public areas, law enforcement officers must either present a valid judicial warrant OR receive voluntary consent to enter.

LD 2106 would provide important clarity and guidance to workers at these places that a decision has been made by Maine's state government that immigration officers are prohibited from entering these locations without a valid judicial warrant, and workers at these places are not allowed to provide voluntary consent to all immigration officers to enter.

Additionally, LD 2106 provides guidance that these places are prohibited from voluntarily providing immigration information they may have about Maine residents to immigration officers, unless presented with a valid judicial warrant or otherwise required by law.

Accordingly, LD 2106 protects the rights and safety of vulnerable Maine residents, including children, workers at public schools, healthcare facilities, daycares, and libraries, and serves key public policy interests, including making sure all Maine children receive an education and public health information is freely shared.

And finally, we need to show the federal government that State rights are still crucial bulwarks against any attempts at creating an authoritarian state. MAGA

loyalists want to label any resistance to their policies as 'domestic terror.' If we do not act, they will pursue this line until there is no one left to resist. We have seen where appeasement gets us. It is time to take matters into our own hands and protect our own.

Thank you for your time, and please support LD2106.

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