

In Support of LD2106

I thank the committee for taking time to hear testimony today. The presence of ICE is a pressing issue facing our community and stress levels are high. Seeing this bill have an emergency hearing gave me hope which is something I needed after long hours of uncertainty and meeting clamoring for safety and security.

I work an after school program for children from all walks of life. We are located in the West End of Portland. The past month I have seen a drain on my coworkers as they discuss what is best for the safety of our students on and off campus. The students feel the stress too.

We are feeling the lack of control and everyone wants what is best and safest for our students. Not only do we want to protect those who are at risk from being separated from their families or being subjected to violence at the hands of untrained agents - we want to protect everyone from the trauma of witnessing and being helpless to such events.

Everyone is already doing their best to establish shelter in place protocols, to halt the spread of rumors, and to foster a sense of community in a time of chaos.

The support of LD2106 would provide much needed guidance and support to a workforce that is taxed and tired. A workforce that provides for your children, your sick, and your elders. This bill's public support would be an outcry that we explicitly know our rights and know where our State stands in supporting them during a time when crucial rights are being stripped away from vulnerable populations. Support for this bill gives me hope we may never have to use those shelter in place protocols because ICE will know where they stand and never dare target a school or hospital again.

Thank you for your time and empathy making schools and care centers safer for children and those who care for them alike.

Marissa Bickford
Westbrook
LD 2106

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