

Stacia Brough
Norway
LD 2106

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Norway, Maine

Good afternoon, Senator Carney, Representative Kuhn, and Members of the Judiciary Committee,

My name is Stacia Brough, and I am a resident of Norway, Maine. I am writing today in support of LD 2106, which would restrict federal immigration enforcement from entering schools, hospitals, libraries, daycares, and places of worship without a judicial warrant.

These locations are meant to be safe spaces for everyone. People go to schools to learn, hospitals to receive medical care, libraries to access information, daycares to care for their children, and places of worship to find support. When immigration enforcement enters these places without warning, people become afraid. Parents stop sending their children to school. Sick people avoid hospitals. Families stop participating in society. This fear harms entire communities and makes Maine less safe.

There is a long history in the United States of protecting certain places as safe harbors. Places of worship, in particular, have been places of refuge for hundreds of years. They sheltered enslaved people escaping slavery and later protected refugees and families in danger. Schools and hospitals were created to serve the public without fear or punishment. Allowing immigration enforcement actions in these places goes against this long-standing American tradition of safety, care, and trust.

There are also specific laws and legal rules that are being ignored or broken when ICE enters these locations without proper authorization. The Fourth Amendment of the U.S. Constitution clearly states that law enforcement must have a judicial warrant—signed by a judge—before entering certain spaces or detaining people. When ICE acts without a warrant, it violates this constitutional protection against unreasonable searches and seizures.

In addition, the Fifth and Fourteenth Amendments guarantee due process, which means the government must follow fair legal procedures before taking away someone's freedom. When people are detained suddenly in sensitive locations, they often do not understand what is happening, cannot access legal help, and are not given a fair chance to protect their rights. This undermines due process, which is a basic American principle.

ICE is also ignoring its own long-standing federal policy, often called the Sensitive Locations Policy, which states that immigration enforcement should generally avoid places like schools, hospitals, and places of worship because enforcement actions there cause harm and fear. When ICE disregards this policy, it breaks public trust and violates the spirit of the law meant to protect communities.

Due process is important because without it, mistakes happen. Innocent people can be detained. Families can be separated without warning. Children can be traumatized simply by witnessing enforcement actions. Requiring ICE to obtain a judicial warrant ensures that their actions are reviewed by a judge, are lawful, and are held accountable.

LD 2106 does not stop immigration enforcement from doing their job. It simply requires them to follow the Constitution, respect existing legal protections, and honor spaces that should remain safe for everyone. When people are not living in fear, they are more likely to seek medical care, send their children to school, and participate fully in their communities. This makes Maine stronger, healthier, and safer for all.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge you to support LD 2106. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Stacia Brough
Norway, Maine