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LD 2106

I write in support of LD 2106.

LD 2106 is a modest and well-conceived bill to prevent federal immigration agents from invading the premises of institutions and businesses that provide essential services to Maine residents, and from invading the privacy of those residents. In particular, it provides an express legal basis for employees to refuse access when faced with demands by federal immigration agents.

It does not compel any action in violation of state or federal law, and does not compel that information be withheld. It requires compliance with judicial warrants, consistent with the Fourth Amendment. These are all eminently reasonable provisions.

By its plain terms, LD 2106 does not affect efforts by local law enforcement to apprehend criminals in the normal course of work: it applies only when local law enforcement is operating to support immigration enforcement. LD 2106 simply means that operating in support of immigration enforcement does not exempt local law enforcement from the requirement to obtain a warrant for searches and seizures. This should not be a controversial notion. To the extent this is a disincentive for local law enforcement to support federal immigration agents, so much the better.

LD 2106 is one example of an essential nationwide effort by states to slow the nation's slide into the abyss the current regime is trying to push us all into, by exercising to the full extent their prerogatives and powers. More will be necessary, but LD 2106 is a good start.

I urge your affirmative vote.

Zach Cowan