

Amanda Doherty

Minot

LD 2106

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From: Amanda Doherty, Minot Maine

Date: January 27, 2026

Subject: Testimony in SUPPORT of LD 2106

To Whom it May Concern,

I very much wish that I could be here in person today, but I am presently where I am needed most: at work, providing a sense of security and normalcy to my students in Lewiston, Maine.

I should say, rather, that I'm with the students who were brave enough to come to school today, since many have been afraid to attend for at least two weeks. Imagine that— in America—children are afraid to come to school. They are now hiding in their homes, like Anne Frank.

At least I hope that they are hiding. Truthfully, I don't even know where some of my students are or if I will ever see them again. I know their parents— legal, documented, and even citizens themselves— are (rightfully) afraid to send them due to the racial profiling, ambushing, and the other shady tactics we are seeing in other states. Each morning these parents—some who brought their children here for a better life—wake up wondering if sending them to school is "worth the risk." Wondering if they will be the next headline splayed across the news—the next Liam Ramos or the eight other children detained in Minneapolis. Wondering if they will be shipped off to some holding cell out of state, with or without their families.

What is happening in our country right now is unacceptable for humanity, let alone our children. Least of all THESE children, who have already endured more trauma than they should ever have had to experience in their youth. In the wake of Lewiston's mass shooting—not even three years ago—I consoled THESE children as they had nightmares about bullets flying through their neighborhoods. About the sounds of helicopters searching for a murderer at large, for days on end. About community members lost, grieving, and forever changed.

THESE children deserve to feel safe coming to school, as do ALL children in our state. And believe me, they need school now more than ever. Their families are terrified to leave their homes—even just to go food shopping. As it is, so many of these kids rely on us for warm meals and nutrition. Schools NEED to be safe.

Therefore, I urge you to protect our wonderful, diverse community—and all our communities— by unanimously passing LD 2106. This is the United States of America, and NO ONE should have to worry about sending their children to school or bringing them to the hospital if they are ill or injured. Teachers should not be worrying about when ICE will show up with their guns to detain their students and coworkers—or if they will be abducted, or shot, in broad daylight or the cover of night.

Schools NEED to be a safe place for our children to come and learn, and I urge you to make sure that happens.