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Portland  
LD 2106

Hello, my name is Bri Dostie and I am writing in support of LD 2106. It feels outrageous to be writing these words, asking my representatives and officials to support protecting children and more vulnerable members of our community. It feels surreal to hear about members of my community being abducted after dropping their kids off at school, as if this is a dystopian movie. This happened just a few blocks from me, on multiple occasions. In the area of Portland I live in, I've appreciated walking my dog and seeing children walk to school together, often with family. It's a lovely way to start the day.

Now, the sidewalks feel eerie. Faces are missing in classrooms, patients are missing appointments and essential medical care for fear of being kidnapped and violently treated. We have too many examples to reference, trauma that will undoubtedly remain in our bones and will shape what our children define "normal" as. It is not normal to go to school worried your parents won't be there at the end of the day. It's impossible to learn or to heal when basic safety is lost. As a state built on stolen land — stolen from indigenous peoples who experienced such similar and shameful trauma of boarding schools and genocide — you have a responsibility to make it clear: **THIS IS NOT ACCEPTABLE. THIS MUST NOT CONTINUE.**

Maine has so much work to do to ensure basic needs are attainable for ALL who live here, and the very least we can do today is pass a bill saying no, I don't think families should live in fear. No, I don't want my child worried about my wellbeing instead of learning. No, I don't want to get in the way of someone getting the medical care they need. I want you all to be able to say "I am a good neighbor, and we care about each other" without it sounding hollow and performative. Make it right, support LD 2106.