

Kate Goodman
Portland
LD 2106

Dear Members of the Judiciary Committee,

My name is Kate Goodman and I am a resident of Portland. I am writing to you today in support of LD 2106 and to ask that you vote in favor of this bill for the safety of all Mainers.

I have spent the past fifteen years of my career working in non-profit youth programs. My life's mission is to cultivate safe and caring spaces where young people can grow and develop through the care and attention of loving adults. What we are seeing now, ICE and CBP arresting people right next to schools or using children as bait, sickens me to my core.

Democrats and Republicans alike recognized the important public policy reasons of making sure all children, regardless of immigration status, can receive an education (as well as food and other stability provided at school). I know from my years of working in after school and summer camp programs that children can not learn when they are frightened. And children right now are frightened- for their own well being, for their loved ones, and for their classmates and friends.

As a long time program director, I know that providing workers with clear guidelines for how to handle this difficult time is essential. While Maine does not have the authority to prohibit all immigration enforcement at places like schools, hospitals, and daycares – which is governed by federal law – the state can put in place measures to ensure we are not actively permitting enforcement at these places. LD 2106 would provide important clarity and guidance to workers at these places that a decision has been made by Maine's state government that immigration officers are prohibited from entering these locations without a valid judicial warrant, and workers at these places are not allowed to provide voluntary consent to all immigration officers to enter.

Children should not be made victims of the current administration's immigration enforcement, which is broad and indiscriminate. We need to pass LD 2106 to make schools and community spaces for children safe spaces for them again.

Thank you,

Kate Goodman, M. Ed.