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***Joint Standing Committee of the Judiciary***

***RE: LD 2106 An Act to Prohibit the Disclosure of Nonpublic Records Without Proper Judicial Review***

Senator Carney, Representative Kuhn, and members of the Committee of the Judiciary,

My name is Olivia Griset, and I am the Executive Director of the Maine Environmental Education Association (MEEA). On behalf of MEEA, I am submitting testimony in support of LD 2106, An Act to Prohibit the Disclosure of Nonpublic Records Without Proper Judicial Review. Thank you to Representative Sato and the bill's cosponsors for recognizing the critical importance of this initiative.

MEEA is a statewide educational nonprofit organization with over 2,500 members that supports the advancement of outdoor and environmental learning. We work with public education institutions and libraries across the state, and our work is in service of advancing the health and wellbeing of all children through outdoor play, nature connection, and powerful environmental community-based learning opportunities.

The safe, secure, and welcoming spaces that our youth need in order to experience this type of learning (i.e. public schools, libraries, and community spaces) are becoming increasingly less safe. Many parents do not feel comfortable bringing their children to school for fear they will be unjustly and traumatically separated from their family. Even for students who are able to attend school, the looming threat to the safety of their peers makes it progressively more difficult to learn effectively on a daily basis. Families cannot return to the normalcy of their everyday lives until we ensure that the spaces we provide to nurture our children are safe ones. LD 2106 would protect Maine's kids, parents, teachers, healthcare workers, and all of us by denying ICE access to schools, healthcare facilities, daycares, and libraries without a valid judicial warrant. Ensuring both the health of our communities and the well-being of our children should be in the best interest of all of us, not a polarizing issue, and passing LD 2106 is critical to making this happen.

Thank you for your time and consideration. We strongly urge you to support LD 2106.

Sincerely,

Olivia Griset