



Maine Women's Lobby

January 29, 2026

Senator Carney, Representative Kuhn, and Honorable Members of the Joint Standing Committee on Judiciary,

I join you today on behalf of the Maine Women's Lobby. For over forty years, the Maine Women's Lobby has worked to build gender justice in Maine through legislative advocacy and systems change.

We are here in support of **“LD 2106, An Act to Prohibit the Disclosure of Nonpublic Records Without Proper Judicial Review”** and we thank Representative Sato for sponsoring this important bill.

Going back decades, we have seen bipartisan support for commonsense federal policies that limit immigration enforcement at sensitive locations such as schools, libraries, childcare centers, and hospitals. **These policies were built on a shared understanding that all people should be able to access crucial public services, such as medical care, child care, and education, without fearing for their lives and the lives of their families.** However, the policies that once protected hardworking families from these fears have been systematically stripped at a federal level, leaving Maine's children and parents **vulnerable** and making LD 2106 all the more critical.

Since the start of the current federal mass deportation campaign, immigrant families in Maine have been afraid to leave their homes, to go to work, send their children to school, seek healthcare, seek social services, attend religious services, and move freely in their communities. The excessive immigration enforcement we have witnessed is broad, violent and indiscriminate, and features the cruel separation of families, detention in inhumane conditions, and deportation to life-threatening circumstances.

Freedom from violence is a core value in the fight for gender justice. We have seen the gendered impacts of this deportation campaign: Pregnant women afraid to leave their homes to seek critical medical care¹ and pregnant women detained and left in custody without access to critical medical care²; mothers who are detained and no longer able to care for their children³, and families

¹ “Fear of ICE is keeping pregnant immigrants in Minnesota from critical care”. The 19th. https://19thnews.org/2026/01/ice-fears-pregnant-immigrants-minnesota-prenatal-care/?utm_source=The+19th&utm_campaign=4f7a54f16c-19th-newsletters-daily-0126_COPY_01&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_-be3d85c373-458360473

² “Pregnant and Postpartum Women Face Neglect and Abuse in ICE Detention” ACLU. <https://www.aclu.org/news/immigrants-rights/pregnant-and-postpartum-women-face-neglect-and-abuse-in-ice-detention>

³ “Mother of 4 detained after dropping off 1 child at Portland High School”. Portland Press Herald. <https://www.pressherald.com/2026/01/21/mother-of-4-detained-in-portland-as-immigration-enforcement-amps-up-in-maine/>

detained and separated from each other⁴. And we must also remember that the vast majority of childcare and healthcare workers and teachers are women⁵– For those who are immigrants, it must be safe for them to go to work, and their citizen colleagues should not have to fear for their co-workers' health and safety. **Violence and fear of violence affects everyone, and the stability of so many crucial systems across our state.**

LD 2106 would provide clear and needed guidance to workers in these sensitive locations by affirming that Maine's state government has determined immigration officers may not enter these spaces without a valid judicial warrant, and that workers are prohibited from granting voluntary consent for such entry. The bill also clarifies that these locations may not voluntarily share immigration-related information about Maine residents with immigration officers unless a valid judicial warrant is presented or disclosure is otherwise required by law.

By establishing these protections, LD 2106 safeguards the rights and safety of vulnerable Maine residents by ensuring that all children can access education, that parents can send their children to a safe place while they work to provide for their family, that all Maine residents can seek help when sick or injured, can seek necessary services and resources in our incredible libraries, and so that Maine's teachers, healthcare workers, daycare workers, and librarians have clear guidelines and do not need to feel afraid to report to work and do their essential jobs.

We hope you will vote 'Ought to Pass' on LD 2106.

Sincerely,

Lily Bohen James
Maine Women's Lobby

⁴ "ICE agents shatter window, leave 1-month-old baby, mother in car after Portland arrest". Portland Press Herald. <https://www.pressherald.com/2026/01/28/ice-agents-shatter-window-leave-1-month-old-baby-mother-in-car-after-portland-arrest/>

⁵ Maine Permanent Commission on the Status of Women. Biennial Report 2024. <https://www.maine.gov/sos/sites/maine.gov.sos/files/content/assets/MaineStatusOfWomenReport2024FINAL-1.pdf?emci=3e666974-36f5-f011-8d4c-0022482d279b&emdi=330da03b-38f5-f011-8d4c-0022482d279b&ceid=6024660>