

Alastair Lawson
Portland
LD 2106

Good afternoon, Senator Carney, Representative Kuhn, and Members of the Judiciary Committee,

My name is Alastair Lawson, and I am a resident of Portland, Maine. I am writing today in strong support of LD 2106, which would restrict federal immigration enforcement from entering hospitals, libraries, daycares, and schools without a judicial warrant.

I am a citizen, and I also spend a lot of time in school and community spaces through my work. This bill feels like a basic line we should be able to draw. People need to be able to go to school, get childcare, use a library, and seek medical care without fear. When those spaces become places where families think they might be surveilled or confronted, we all lose something important.

LD 2106 is also a response to the mental health and trauma crisis created by mass immigration enforcement. That trauma shows up in real ways, especially for kids. It affects their well-being, their learning, and their development. It also affects the people who work in these spaces. Teachers, nurses, childcare providers, librarians, and front-line staff should not be asked to do their jobs in an atmosphere of intimidation.

My wife is a teacher, and she is seeing this firsthand. Students are not coming to school because families are scared. Even when a family wants their child in class, fear can win. That is not just a problem for that one student. It disrupts classrooms, it undermines trust, and it harms the sense of safety that schools depend on. My daughter, in 2nd grade is having conversations with her friends and her class, asking if her parents are going to be “stolen from the school at pickup”. She’s 7.

This bill is also about protecting Maine’s overall workforce and economy. When parents do not feel safe sending their kids to school or leaving them at daycare, they cannot go to work. That is a ripple effect that hits families, employers, and entire communities.

I also want to be clear about what LD 2106 is and is not. Maine does not have the authority to prohibit all immigration enforcement at places like schools, hospitals, and daycares, because immigration enforcement is governed by federal law. But Maine does have the ability to put measures in place so we are not actively permitting enforcement in the very places people rely on to meet basic needs.

Under the Constitution, to enter non-public areas, law enforcement officers must either present a valid judicial warrant or receive voluntary consent to enter. LD 2106 reinforces that standard in the sensitive locations where the harm of fear and disruption is greatest.

Please support LD 2106, and help ensure Maine’s schools, libraries, healthcare centers, and daycares are safe places for everyone who needs them.

Respectfully,
Alastair Lawson
Portland, Maine