



Testimony in Support of:
**L.D. 2106, An Act to Prohibit the Disclosure of Nonpublic Records
Without Proper Judicial Review**
by Heide Lester on behalf of EqualityMaine

January 29, 2026

Senator Carney, Representative Kuhn, and distinguished members of the Joint Standing Committee on Judiciary,

My name is Heide Lester and I am the Deputy Director of EqualityMaine, which has been advocating on behalf of Maine's LGBTQ+ community since 1984 and believes that the health and safety of all people are fundamental human rights. We strongly support L.D. 2106 and its assertion that "it is in the public interest to ensure that individuals are not discouraged from seeking an education, medical care or child care and that public schools, public libraries, health care facilities and child care facilities are safe and accessible for all residents of the State."

Administrations of both parties have recognized for years that immigration enforcement at places like schools and hospitals undermines public health. However, the elimination of federal policy that prohibits enforcement actions at such locations has led to devastating impacts on individuals, families, and entire communities. Enforcement by way of brutal tactics, arrests of Americans without cause, detention of people based on how they look, and disregard for due process has meant that people have been unable to access crucial public services and get their basic human needs met without fear. The reports from all over the state have been frightening and heart-rending to say the least.

While this timely legislation does not assure absolute safety, it significantly reduces harm and will provide clarity and guidance for healthcare providers, teachers, librarians, and child care workers. Preventing immigration enforcement from entering Maine's schools, daycares, healthcare facilities, and libraries without a valid judicial warrant is necessary for public health and is a critical affirmation of Maine's commitment to the rule of law. We urge the Committee to support L.D. 2106.

Thank you for your time and consideration.