

Anne Lichtenwalner

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LD 2106

1 29 2026

Dear Maine State Legislature and public,

LD 2106, as I understand it, would require federal law enforcement to obtain judicial warrants (signed by a judge) before entering public schools, public health facilities, public libraries and daycares for the purposes of immigration enforcement. It would protect due process and strengthen protections against unlawful search and seizure. This would reinstate previous policy, which allowed immigrant families safe access to schools and healthcare while sorting out their status as US citizens.

Losing your family is the worst thing that can happen to any of us, and it's a likely outcome for over 20,000 families here in Maine (per Maine Immigrant Rights Coalition data, 2026). When children are not safe at school, they won't attend; when parents need to stay home because their children are not at school, they won't be able to earn money at their jobs; when health care workers are not safe at work, hospitals and doctors' offices will struggle to provide service.

Much of the work of creating a healthy, thoughtful, democratic society is done at schools. As well, many children depend on schools for at least one meal a day. If people are afraid to seek out medical help, public health will suffer. Disrupting these foundational services to society is causing anxiety and fear in our immigrant communities, and beyond. Family and friends are disappearing, and conditions in detention are apparently inhumane. As well, the risk of attacks by ICE agents extends to all of us, as has been evidenced by mistaken identities, detention of citizens and others who are legal immigrants, detention of law-abiding people (including corrections officers) and violent attacks on observers. While ordinary compassion for each other should impel us to restrict ICE's activity, enlightened self-interest should do so, as well. A well-armed militia that targets the American people is not in anyone's best interests.

Let Stephen King keep his well-earned title as Maine's master of the horror genre, and stop this nightmare. Don't let ICE trample all over Maine's landscape.

Sincerely,

Anne Lichtenwalner DVM PhD