

Mary Marra
Wells
LD 2106

My Name is Mary Marra. I am writing in support of LD 2106 An Act to Prohibit the Disclosure of Nonpublic Records Without Proper Judicial Review. I am urging you to support this reasonable and necessary bill to ensure the safety of all children and adults in Maine.

I am a resident of Wells Maine and a former teacher at the high School, community college and Adult Education levels. I have also worked many years in community engagement efforts, building trust-based relationships, organizing vital initiatives that strengthen local resources, and working with others to improve the quality of life in various communities

As an educator I know how important it is for academic learning, as well as mental and emotional well-being, for children of all ages, as well as adults, to have a calm, consistent, welcoming and secure environment in order for any learning to happen. The presence of ICE and other immigration enforcement officers near or in schools is turning these places of safety into places of trauma for many students and teachers. This is true even those children and teachers not directly targeted by ICE.

We know that since “Operation Catch Of The Day” began, immigration enforcement officers are acting without judicial warrants to detain and remove people from our communities. Some of those being detained have been living and working here many years. Many have valid work permits. The vast majority have no criminal records and are following all legal processes and requirements.

Mainers should not have to fear going to school, or a doctor’s appointment or to our public libraries. The passage of LD 2106 is critical right now, not only for Maine’s immigrant community, but for all of us who expect our government to ensure our safety, not through intimidation and aggression, but through due process and equal justice.