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It is imperative that all children in our community feel safe to enter their schools. Ensuring that learning is accessible to all is the most impactful, beneficial, and profitable thing that we can do for our community, particularly when individuals are working hard to learn a new language.

I am a native of Portland, graduate of Portland High School, now a teacher myself, who, for the past 38 years, has witnessed our local public schools provide safety and solace to students and families from all around the world. I am writing today for my children and students, and all children in our community, so that they may experience learning as generations before have done, as an irreplaceable opportunity and one that has allowed our community to remain strong. Please do not allow terror and fear of immigration officers entering school buildings to interfere with the student growth, progress, and opportunity that benefits our entire community.

I implore you to protect Maine's public schools, libraries, and healthcare facilities. Prohibit ICE enforcement actions at these locations, immediately.

I ask this with great respect and appreciation.