

Eliza Oldach
Bar Harbor
LD 2106

Dear Senator Carney and honorable members of the Judiciary Committee,

I urge you to pass LD 2106. I am a board member at the Jesup Memorial Library in Bar Harbor, which critically informs my support for this bill and I will keep my testimony narrowly focused on the effects this bill would have for libraries like the Jesup. LD 2106 takes a small but critical step towards providing helpful clarity to library staff around where and how they can respond to federal immigration activity, as well as indicating to community members and library patrons what activities they can expect at the Jesup.

The Jesup Memorial Library has a mission of “nourishing minds, enhancing lives, and building community”. The board carries a responsibility to uphold this mission by stewarding a welcoming and accessible library. It's hard overemphasize the importance of the physical space of the library. We have many online and virtual resources, but people turn to the physical library to access books, attend programs, get technical support, and enjoy a safe community spot. It is a place for kids to gather after school and elders to find social connection and summer workers to access printers. Oftentimes, patrons describe that the library is an important place for them just to be. Recognizing the importance of the physical building, this year, the Jesup is expanding and will open the doors to the community to bring the building to life in Spring 2026. This expansion represents our best collective impulses and makes real our values around learning, gathering, and connecting.

LD 2106 will help ensure this space is welcoming and accessible to all library patrons. It affirms that a judicial warrant is required for federal agents to enter certain spaces in the Jesup. It also offers policy language guidance from the Attorney General's office, to translate state law to library-level policy. This bill would be meaningful to Jesup staff, providing clarity and support for them as they navigate the day to day operations of the library. And it will be meaningful to patrons to know the library will continue to be a safe, welcoming, and predictable community space.

A library without patrons is just a building with books. Please pass LD 2106 as one small step towards ensuring that libraries like the Jesup can support staff and patrons, and meet our mission to be the living space of sharing stories, resources, and knowledge.

Signed,
Eliza Oldach
Jesup Memorial Library Board Member