

Emi S
Portland
LD 2106

To the Judiciary Committee,

I am writing to express my support of LD 2106, a bill to help protect Maine's public schools, hospitals and healthcare facilities, daycares, and libraries, as well as people's information that may be held at these places, from unchecked, broad and indiscriminate ICE operations.

These are historically protected, sensitive locations that are meant to exist as places of sanctuary. These are public institutions that exist to serve their communities with dignity, privacy, and respect. I, like many Mainers, am appalled that the protections of these places, that were one common practice, were stripped away due to one of the Trump administration's very first executive orders.

Mainers of all ages and from all walks of life deserve to have access to places that have the lawful right to prioritize the protection of not only their constitutional rights and personal information, but their safety, freedom, dignity, and well-being.

Right now, we are seeing ICE officers unlawfully, unethically, and inhumanely detaining our friends, loved ones, neighbors and fellow community members. This is not a highly organized operation targeting only "the worst of the worst". We are seeing Mainers being profiled and taken without signed, valid judicial warrants. Taken regardless of their citizenship and legal status, of their record and character. Because of this, so many Mainers are being forced to shelter in place out of fear for their safety, and in turn, they are struggling to feed their families, to afford to remain in their homes, to stay connected to their communities and support systems.

Everyone who calls Maine home deserves the right to be able to learn and receive an education, to laugh and play, to seek and receive the healthcare they need, to gather and support one another and embrace the power of community in the hardest of times without constant and rampant fear and terror hampering or even completely inhibiting their abilities to do so.

LD 2106 is a necessary step towards protecting Mainers' right to due process, to sanctuary, to safety, to dignity. LD 2106 is a step toward protecting all of the people of Maine.