

Katherine Sarton Dunn
Gray
LD 2106

I am testifying in support of LD2106, a bill that would prohibit immigration enforcement from entering public institutions, like public schools, hospitals, libraries, and childcare facilities.

Public schools, hospitals, child care facilities, and libraries are not incidental spaces. They are critical civic infrastructure. They are places where people access education, health care, information, safety, and stability – both during quiet times and during periods of crisis. As climate change brings more extreme storms, heat waves and risks to public health, these institutions become even more essential to community resilience.

When immigrant communities—and particularly Black, Brown, and Indigenous people—are made to fear these spaces, the harm extends far beyond immigration policy. Families avoid schools and clinics. Public health information goes unshared. Children lose access to education, meals, and stability. Workers cannot go to their jobs because they cannot safely send their children to school or daycare. The entire community becomes strained and less prepared for climate disasters and other emergencies.

On top of which, if immigration enforcement enters safe spaces like schools and hospitals, it creates a traumatic experience for everyone involved and sets a precedent that these places are no longer safe for receiving help (health or education-wise) or aspiring towards a greater life.

LD 2106 will keep our communities safer and ensure these institutions remain accessible and trusted by everyone in Maine.