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LD 2106

Senator Carney, Representative Kuhn, and members of the Committee on Judiciary, I write in support of LD 2106, a bill that would prohibit Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) officials from entering public spaces such as public schools, hospitals, libraries, and childcare facilities without a judicial warrant.

The terror that ICE raids and sweeps are inflicting affect us all. It affects all immigrants, regardless of their legal status. It also affects U.S. citizens, especially those who are indigenous or people of color, many of whom are being swept up in ICE raids, causing fear in the entire community. Children who are afraid to go to school or are too afraid to focus on their studies do not learn and cannot become productive members of the community. Parents who do not have a safe place for their pre-school age children to go, can't go to work and can't provide for their families. People who are afraid to go to a hospital or clinic do not get needed care. People who work in healthcare facilities and who are afraid of being "swept up" – doctors, nurses, cleaning staff -- do not come to work, endangering patient care. People who are afraid to visit libraries are denied essential opportunities for learning and for participating in community programs.

And there is another way in which the fear affects us all – if people from diverse backgrounds and experiences are afraid to be in public spaces, the community writ large is denied the benefit of their viewpoints and their ideas. Our society and our communities are faced with big problems – climate change which brings stronger storms and more devastation, invasive species that affect our native plants and animals, pollution and chemicals that affect our air, water, and the land on which we grow food, just to name a few. Many voices, and many different ideas born of different experiences and viewpoints, are more likely to lead us to innovative solutions.

Senator Carney, Representative Kuhn, and members of the Committee on Judiciary, I urge you to support LD 2106.