

Katherine Webber
Lisbon
LD 2106

Good afternoon, Senator Carney, Representative Kuhn, and Members of the Judiciary Committee,

My name is Katherine Webber and I am a resident of Lisbon, Maine.

I am writing today in support of LD 2106, which would restrict federal immigration enforcement from entering hospitals, libraries, daycares, and schools without a judicial warrant. These places serve as critical resources for thousands of individuals and families in our state. But many of our community members are too afraid to access these spaces because of the recent concerning and violent actions of ICE. By restricting ICE's access to these community places, we can ensure that everyone can use these basic services without fear.

I have people in my life who are carrying their passports or other documents, despite their status as a US citizen, because of the color of their skin. I know people in healthcare who tell me patients are canceling necessary appointments that they often waited months to get because they are too scared to leave home. I received notices from my child's school and my toddler's daycare last week to assure parents that they are being pro-active in taking steps to protect those in their care.

And if all of this wasn't demoralizing and horrifying enough on its own, one of my coworkers came to me on Tuesday and said they received a call from someone who wanted to access our library services but was concerned about their caregiver being detained while they were out in public together, which would leave this person in a vulnerable position.

I have had the privilege of working in public libraries for over a decade and am currently a library director. I know firsthand that people from all walks of life value our resources. They come to us for everything from warming up during the winter and connecting with community through art to finding information about employment, housing, illness, local wildlife, and yes, even citizenship.

We continue to see online, in the media, and in our own lives that healthcare providers, teachers, and caregivers feel unsafe going to work, families are afraid to send their children to school, and people are afraid to seek medical care or other support they need. This is unacceptable to me. These disruptions harm the public health and mental, emotional, and physical well-being of our entire community.

LD 2106 would mitigate some of these impacts by prohibiting ICE from accessing sensitive locations that people rely on to meet their basic needs. It could remove a barrier to potentially life-saving services for individuals experiencing homelessness and poverty. It could provide additional peace of mind for parents who already worry daily about the well-being of their children and additional measures for our children who all deserve to feel safe.

Please support LD 2106, and ensure that Maine's schools, libraries, healthcare centers, and daycares are a safe place for all who need them.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Respectfully submitted,
Katherine Webber
Lisbon, ME