

January 28, 2026

Senator Carney, Representative Kuhn, Members of the Committee on Judiciary:

My name is Tobin Williamson and I am a resident of Westbrook in Cumberland County, a community that has recently been one of the focus areas of federal attention in this state. It has been a tough couple of weeks here. Federal actions have forced non-citizens and citizens alike to be frightened and on alert. As multiple reports have shown, several innocent people have been caught up in these indiscriminate operations. Many of us are wondering what our state legislators in Augusta can do.

To that end, **I am writing today to encourage you to vote in favor of Rep. Sato's LD 2106**, An Act to Prohibit the Disclosure of Nonpublic Records Without Proper Judicial Review. To quote directly from the Immigrant Legal Advocacy Project, Maine people are "living in deep fear and anxiety, scared to leave their homes, go to work, take their children to school, seek healthcare, and more." This legislation is a small, concrete step you can take to help Maine people in these trying times.

Public education is an issue that is deeply personal to me and that is what I am choosing to focus on in this testimony. Over the past year, headline after headline across the country has shown how federal operations in targeted cities are negatively impacting America's schools, places where the primary focus should be on learning and not on wondering if your family or friends will be forcefully torn apart. For example:

- Portland, ME: "[Portland Public Schools says attendance has dropped since start of ICE operation](#)" (*WGME*)
- Minneapolis, MN: "[Attendance drops at Minnesota schools as federal immigration enforcement intensifies anxieties](#)" (*Minnesota StarTribune*)
- Chicago, IL: "[Attendance drops at Chicago schools in communities with increased immigration enforcement](#)" (*Chalkbeat*)
- Los Angeles, CA: "[Immigration raids impact: Attendance dropped, bullying increased in high schools, study finds](#)" (*KABC*)
- New Orleans, LA: "[Student attendance drops in New Orleans-area schools amid immigration sweeps. See the data.](#)" (*Times Picayune*)
- Charlotte, NC: "[Charlotte public schools see attendance plummet during immigration crackdown](#)" (*MS Now*)
- Raleigh, NC: "[Attendance drops in Wake, Durham, Chapel Hill schools during Border Patrol surge](#)" (*News & Observer*)
- Nationwide: "[In cities targeted by ICE, empty desks and school disruptions follow](#)" (*Washington Post*)
- Nationwide: "[Federal immigration enforcement near schools disrupts attendance, traumatizes students and damages their academic performance](#)" (*The Conversation*)

Quoting ILAP again: “LD 2106 would require... a valid judicial warrant signed by a judge to conduct enforcement at schools, hospitals and healthcare facilities, daycares, and libraries, as well as protect people’s information that might be held at these places. Importantly, the bill also provides guidance and support to teachers, healthcare workers, and other employees at these locations, ensuring they are not put in crisis situations and forced to make individual decisions.”

Students in schools, patients in hospitals, children in daycare, and customers in public libraries should not have to worry about these crisis situations, and this legislation could help prevent that. I join the many others submitting testimony today in writing, in person, or virtually and asking you to please vote Ought to Pass on LD 2106. Thank you for considering this testimony and for your service to the state of Maine.

Tobin Williamson
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