Testimony before the Judiciary Committee on LD 2106, January 29, 2026

Dear Senator Carney, Representative Kuhn and Esteemed Members of the Judiciary Committee

My name is Amy Coha, I am a social worker and Vice President of the National Association of Social Workers -Maine Chapter Board. I live in South Portland. I am also a volunteer ICE verifier.

I am testifying in support of LD 2106. Prior to the Trump administration ICE agents were prohibited from enforcement activities in places like schools and hospitals. This policy was followed by both Republican and Democratic administrations. LD 2106 is a return to a past common-sense policy that recognizes the constitutional rights of all people in this country to access education, healthcare, and social services without fear of being abducted by ICE.

Now ICE is in Maine. The very name of the ICE invasion of our state is indicative of the disregard and hostility directed to our neighbors: Operation Catch of the Day. The reality is that anyone who is an immigrant regardless of their legal status is being arrested. ICE's indiscriminate targeting of immigrant communities is causing fear and terror for everyone, regardless of their status. Our immigrant neighbors have come to Maine with the hope for a better life. Now, in Maine they are experiencing hate rhetoric, discrimination, physical assault and arrest and being denied the right of due process.

Our immigrant neighbors are hardworking, important members of our community. They are represented in multiple professions across Maine, including, but not limited to, education, healthcare, social services and the service industry. Due process which is required by the 14th amendment of our constitution is being denied to our immigrant neighbors and others. We have all witnessed the recent murders of Renee Good and Alex Pettit in Minneapolis. I hope we are not so naïve to think this can't happen here.

ICE agents are going to schools and arresting parents as they walk their child to or from school. They have pulled drivers out of cars and left the car running in the street. ICE has arrested immigrants on their way to a scheduled immigration hearing. ICE is using children to gain entrance to homes. These tactics are being used without judicial warrants and result in an increase of trauma throughout our communities.

Mainers who believe in the rule of law are speaking out and supporting our immigrant neighbors. This legislation will protect the health and safety of vulnerable Maine residents including children, workers in public schools, healthcare facilities, daycares and libraries, and services key public policy interests, including making sure all Maine children receive an education and public health information is freely shared.

I respectfully ask the Judiciary Committee to report out LD 2106 favorably to protect Maine's Public Schools, Hospitals, Daycares and Libraries from ICE, which will help keep our communities safer.

Respectfully submitted,

Amy L. Coha, LCSW