

Senator Susan Collins
413 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Senator Angus King
33 Hart Building
Washington, D.C., 20510

Congresswoman Chellie Pingree
2354 Rayburn HOB,
Washington DC 20515

Congressman Jared Golden
1107 Longworth HOB,
Washington, DC 20515

March 4, 2026

To Maine's Congressional Delegation,

As medical providers and organizations who support Mainers' health and safety, we are appalled by the Trump Administration's use of private health care data for immigration enforcement. We are seeing trust in our health care system seriously undermined by the federal government, scaring people away from medical care and putting our public health at risk.

For years, we have encouraged people to enroll in MaineCare when they are eligible, understanding that the privacy of their personal information was protected under law, and would never be shared with immigration officials. Unfortunately, we can no longer confidently say this is true.

The State of Maine is fighting this privacy attack in court, joining multiple multi-state lawsuits to protect public benefit recipients. Unfortunately, a recent court order cleared a path for Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) to access some Medicaid data while the final decision on the lawsuit is still pending. This includes names, addresses, phone numbers, birth dates, and the type of MaineCare coverage a person receives based on their immigration status, but it does not list an individual's exact immigration status. In the states like Maine that sued, the order also says that if this basic information cannot be separated from data including U.S. citizens, people who are lawfully residing, or sensitive health information then it may not be shared with ICE. The lawsuit is still ongoing, and the final decision could change what is and is not allowable.

This is a betrayal of trust and is already discouraging people of all immigration statuses from getting the health coverage and care they need and deserve. Families are now forced to weigh the benefits of things like affordable medications, prenatal screenings, and emergency medical care against the risk that their information could be shared with ICE. These are choices no parent or person should ever have to make.

The dismantling of privacy protections and collection of personal data is happening against the backdrop of aggressive enforcement operations in our communities, historic cuts to health care funding, and allowing enforcement to happen for the first time inside sensitive locations like hospitals and health centers. Mainers are

withdrawing from public life and public benefits, even when they need medical attention. The results are worse health outcomes, more medical debt for low-income families, and more uncompensated care for our healthcare providers. When our health care systems are used for immigration enforcement, it hurts all of us.

While the litigation continues to work its way through the courts, there are things our elected officials can do now to protect the health and security of Maine people:

- Congress has the authority and responsibility to immediately do more by including limitations on immigration enforcement in sensitive locations like schools, health care settings and public health facilities in their funding negotiations for the Department of Homeland Security (DHS).
- In Maine, LD 2106 would protect families attempting to access these community resources by requiring immigration officers to show valid judicial warrants before entering designated sensitive locations.
- Targeted state investments are also needed to reinforce Maine's safety net in the face of federal funding restrictions for many immigrants and providers. In this climate of fear, protecting health care facilities and health care data from becoming tools for detentions and deportations, and continuing to fund vital services, is the bare minimum we can offer our patients, clients, and neighbors.

A foundational principle of health care is “do no harm.” This means treating people, regardless of immigration status or their ability to pay, and safeguarding patients’ safety and privacy. We cannot allow our health care system or essential public benefit programs to be weaponized in this Administration’s dangerous and chaotic immigration agenda.

Signed,

Consumers for Affordable Health Care
Mabel Wadsworth Center
Maine Chapter, American Academy of Pediatrics
Maine Equal Justice
Maine Family Planning
Maine Immigrants’ Rights Coalition
Maine Medical Association
Maine Osteopathic Association
Maine People's Alliance
New Mainers Public Health Initiative
Planned Parenthood of Northern New England
Presente! Maine