

Nicki Hudson  
Gorham  
LD 537

Dear members of the Judiciary Committee:

I am writing to you all in support of LD 537, An Act to Prohibit the Doxing of a Minor and to Authorize a Related Civil Action.

I have worked in public schools for 15 years. As a school employee, there are clear expectations and trainings provided to ensure we understand the importance of protecting personal information of our students. We cannot discuss individual students with other students, provide personal information about students to teachers without an educational need to know, and are mindful of how we talk about students with other professionals and in emails. These laws and regulations are designed to protect the privacy and safety of students and their families.

Privacy protection of our kids should not be limited to their time in a school building. As adults, we have an obligation to model appropriate behavior and ensure that children and their parents are given the opportunity to consent to the release of their identity and/or personal information. Recently, a Maine high school athlete was targeted and used as a political pawn simply because she chose to exist in the world of high school athletics. The high school student in question did not take a stand as an activist or make a political statement in any way, but she was prominently featured by a Republican representative who valued national media attention over the protection of minors. This reprehensible behavior placed a high school student at the center of a controversy that threatened her physical safety, emotional wellbeing, and right to privacy as a child.

We cannot control the values of decency, respect, and kindness in others but we can hold them accountable when they put our children at risk.