

Alisha Heal
Kennebunk
LD 537

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Kennebunk, ME
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Thank you for the opportunity to address the committee. My name is Alisha Heal and I am a resident of Kennebunk Maine, clinical social worker, parent and concerned citizen. I am offering written testimony in support of LD 537. The recent outing of a trans minor by Rep Laurel Libby is heinous and unconscionable. Minors in our state should never have to worry about being bullied by adults, let alone by an adult elected to public office. As a clinical social worker and mother, I am all too aware of the long term detrimental effects on our minors from bullying and being outed publicly on social media. Minors who experience bullying experience high rates of anxiety, depression, drop in school performance, low self esteem, self harm and tragically, suicidal thinking and suicide attempts. It is disgraceful that we are living in a culture where there are adults in positions of power who feel they can blatantly target minors without a second thought. Passing LD 537 would show minors of Maine that the adults in power will keep them safe, and there will be clear repercussions for when an adult publicly bullies a child. Thank you for the opportunity to share my perspective with the Committee. I urge you to vote "Ought to Pass" on LD 537