

## **Testimony of Lani Graham, MD, MPH**

### **Supporting LD 537**

## **An Act to Prohibit the Doxing of a Minor and to Authorize a Related Civil Action**

### **Presented by Representative Sachs**

### **Before the Judiciary Committee, March 3, 2025**

Senator Carney, Representative Kuhn and Members of the Judiciary Committee, my name is Lani Graham I am a former Chief Public health Officer for Maine, and I live in Freeport. I am proud to support this bill presented by my own representative.

As I'm sure you have heard Representative Sachs and I both come from a Maine town that has had direct experience with the doxxing, of a minor which inspired this bill. Now we have seen another similar recent example. While it is always difficult to find it necessary to legislate appropriate behavior, especially the behavior of an adult toward a child, these experiences make clear that such action is needed. In this digital age, where personal information is increasingly available, doxxing can be extremely damaging to children. Unfortunately some adults can't see the difference between advocating for an issue and taking direct personal action against a child who could be seriously harmed by such a personal and cruel action.

We know from a recent survey of adults that doxxing is on the rise. About 11 million adults reported being the victim of doxxing.<sup>1</sup> While statistics are less available on the doxxing of minors, there is certainly evidence that minors are subject to cyberbullying, with doxxing being an extreme form. It is also well known that children are quite vulnerable to online attacks and may respond with a depression, anxiety or even self-harm.

This bill is a commonsense response to the significant threat posed by doxxing of minors. It is narrowly crafted to avoid any issues around free speech and instead focuses on the protection of those the government should be protecting, minors. It will act as a disincentive for that type of behavior. It establishes doxxing as a serious action that can cause real harm and has legal consequences. It offers a form of relief for anyone who has been seriously harmed by doxxing.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.safehome.org/family-safety/doxxing-online-harassment-research/>