

Senator Carney, Representative Kuhn and members of the Joint Standing Committee on Judiciary, my name is Scott Cuddy and I live in Winterport. I represented my community and others in the 129th and 130th legislatures. I'm here today to speak in favor of LD 537, An Act to Prohibit the Doxing of a Minor and to Authorize a Related Civil Action.

Human decency and common sense should make this bill unnecessary, and for many years did, but sadly those norms have been thrown out. The legislation that is seen before the committees of the legislature often has to target the behavior of the worst elements of our society. LD 537 is one of those pieces of legislation.

Culture warriors on the right of the political spectrum have decided to target a group with little power to fight back. They are attacking kids who are literally just trying to be who they are. Kids. Children. But as with any good piece of legislation, LD 537 seeks to protect the entire class of minors from this behavior, not just address the issue of the moment. No matter what your political stripe, this bill will protect your children, too.

While we cannot criminalize speech, and that is right and good, we can make the behaviors people engage in costly for them. I appreciate the sponsor's use of the civil code in this instance rather than the criminal code. I doubly appreciate that family members can bring a civil action. Were anyone to target my children in this same fashion I would want the ability to bring an action on their behalf.

Additionally the bill includes important safeguards in the way of establishing defenses for proper reporting of illegal conduct, proper reporting of conduct by a public official, and engaging in Constitutionally, state or federal, protected speech.

LD 537 is a well reasoned response to a completely unreasonable behavior. I ask the committee to report out an Ought to Pass report. Thank you for your time and attention.