

2 March 2025

Senator Carney, Representative Kuhn, and all members of the Joint Standing Committee on Judiciary,

My name is Lief Temple. I am a resident of Lincolnville, Maine, and through this brief letter I testify in support of LD 537. I submit these remarks as a member of the First Universalist Church in Rockland, a congregation of the Unitarian Universalist faith tradition, which affirms and promotes justice, equity and compassion in human relations, and the inherent worth and dignity of every person. I support the Maine UU State Advocacy Network (MUUSAN), which links Maine's 26 UU congregations in working for legislation that embodies those values. I believe LD 537 should become law because doxxing is a real threat and a real fear, especially for children. I strongly believe that children deserve to feel safe from harm in their own houses, and the protection of their address and other personal identifying information is an important part of that. I am currently a college student, and doxxing continues to be a real threat and fear for myself and the others around me. I have witnessed my peers experience being doxxed as an angry response to social justice work (honestly, particularly around transgender kids and advocacy for trans healthcare). The fear of doxxing makes it harder to participate in social justice work and advocacy. Social media should be used as a tool for collaboration, connection, and community, but leaving children susceptible to doxxing allows social media to be used as a weapon.

The Maine legislature and all Mainers need to send a clear message that we cherish and support all children and youth and will do all we can to keep them safe from harm.

For all these reasons, we need to protect all Maine children and youth. I urge you to vote Ought to Pass on LD 537.

Thank you kindly,

Lief Temple