

Jennifer Temple
Lincolnvile
LD 537

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

My name is Jennifer Temple. I am a Lincolnvile resident and testifying 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 every person's inherent worth and dignity. 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 this bill will protect all Maine minors from doxing. Our children deserve to be safe. It is our collective job as Maine adults to keep our children safe. Last year my high school-aged daughter, who was going through a particularly rough time at school in Unity, was the subject of doxing. An employee of her then-school was at a Newburgh gas station when he chose to speak openly about my daughter: name her, physically describe her, and elaborate on his negative opinion of her, all of this without our permission. As you can imagine, this did not help my daughter's situation. It made matters worse, further eroding her capacity to remain in school. This was a horrible time in our lives, and this grown man's actions made it even more complicated, so much so that my daughter did not return to school.

Doxing is used to create fear and intimidate children and youth who are perceived to be "different" and should be excluded from society. Maine has unfortunately experienced a very painful example of doxing of a trans youth recently. But doxing can also be used against vulnerable minors whose perceived "difference" is deemed "less than:" people with disabilities, people who live in poverty, immigrants, and refugees, people of color, etc.

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 must protect all Maine children and youth. I urge you to vote Ought to Pass on LD 537.

Thank you,
Jennifer M Temple