

Jerzy Wieczorek  
Waterville  
LD 537

Dear members of the Judiciary Committee,

I urge you to support LD 537, "An Act to Prohibit the Doxing of a Minor and to Authorize a Related Civil Action."

I found it deeply disturbing when I heard about Rep. Laurel Libby's outing and harassment of a transgender high school athlete, posting photos of the student on social media as part of a political attack. Even if someone agrees with Rep. Libby's stance on trans athletes, or wants to debate that topic like adults, there is absolutely no excuse for these kinds of social media posts targeting individual minors without their consent.

My own kids are still young. In the coming years, I don't know yet which of their classmates may turn out to be trans -- or belong to some other group that will be the next "moral panic" of the day. But all kids deserve privacy as they grow up. None of them deserve to be used as pawns and harassed by online strangers just to further some politician's career.

We should all think twice before posting on social media about any individual, especially kids and others who have not consented to be in the public eye. But for those who don't already see this as a red line not to be crossed, LD 537 is an appropriate mechanism to discourage and remedy the doxing of minors.

However, I hope there is a way to also include web URLs in section 9101.5, defining personal identifying information. If a minor has a personal webpage or social media account, that should not be a loophole to enable doxing of this minor. If someone wants to target a minor and tells their followers "I can't tell you the name or address of the kid I want you to harass, but here is their website where you can find it yourself," that would clearly be doxing too. The same goes for vehicle identifiers such as license plate numbers.

For precedent, URLs and license plate numbers are both on the HIPAA list of potential identifiers for "safe harbor" de-identification. See end note 15 of the HHS "Summary of the HIPAA Privacy Rule":

<https://www.hhs.gov/hipaa/for-professionals/privacy/laws-regulations/index.html>

Thank you,  
Jerzy Wieczorek  
Waterville, ME