

Maura Pillsbury
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LD 537

Sen. Carney, Rep. Kuhn, and members of the Judiciary Committee, my name is Maura Pillsbury and I am a resident of Freeport and member of the RSU5 school board. I am submitting this testimony on my own behalf in support of LD 537, and I thank my representative Melanie Sachs for putting this bill forward.

At least twice now our community has been impacted by the doxxing of minors by adults. This has hurt and devastated many in our community. Minors should never be the target of attacks and harassment by adults. They should not have photos used of them on the internet to encourage their harassment. This is wrong, and we must protect them.

The RSU5 mission is: “To inspire and support every learner by challenging minds, building character, sparking creativity, and nurturing passions.” This means every student should have the right to pursue their education, including athletic competition, without being doxxed or targeted by harassment.

The amount of hate leveled at minors who are simply trying to live their lives—within the rules adults have set for them, might I add—is egregious and harmful to their mental health and well being. I can’t emphasize enough the amount of damage a single photo that has been extensively re-shared thousands of times across the internet can have. As a parent, I cannot imagine my child being subjected to this.

All kids to deserve to have a safe, nurturing childhood free from trauma, which can severely impact their ability to learn and grow into healthy adults. This bill will help ensure that can happen. I hope you will take this matter seriously and vote Ought to Pass on LD 537.

Thank you.