

Testimony in support of LD LD 537 - An Act to Prohibit the Doxing of a Minor and to Authorize a Related Civil Action. Submitted by Megan Shore of Freeport Maine on March 3, 2025 to the Committee on Judiciary of the Maine Legislature.

Dear Senator Carney, Representative Kuhn and the Members of the Standing Committee on Judiciary; please accept my testimony in strong support of *LD 537 - An Act to Prohibit the Doxing of a Minor and to Authorize a Related Civil Action*. Protecting the safety and well-being of children is of utmost importance and nonnegotiable.

The role of social media in increasing the mental health and well-being of youth is clear. Bullying has taken new shape and broadened in scope and depth of impact in recent years. We are seeing an epidemic of anxiety and other mental health issues in youth. Chronic absenteeism is a significant problem. All of which have correlation with social media and bullying.

That adults are participating and publicly identifying, bullying, and attempting to shame children is outrageous. Imagine your child or someone you love being passed around social media sites at laser speed, with red circles highlighting them, hateful and inflammatory language alongside. Information on how old they are, where they go to school, where they live - information that allows others to further target and harass them. Take a moment and truly imagine that happening to you. Now imagine it happening to a child in your life.

No good can come of doxxing children. Adults inciting this behavior are beyond way out of line. They are being downright cruel and using children without the assent as targets and tools to advance their own agendas - at considerable to cost to the children.

We, the people of Maine, are better than that. We must be better than that. Please strongly recommend passage of LD 537.

Thank you for your service,

Megan Shore
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