

Ashley Schumacher  
Freeport  
LD 537

Monday, March 3, 2025

To Representative Kuhn and the Esteemed Members of the House Judiciary Committee,

My name is Ashley Schumacher. I live in Freeport, Maine. I am a parent, a registered nurse, a local community organizer, and a proud queer and nonbinary Mainer. I am writing to you today to urge you to vote “ought to pass” on LD 537.

Over the past two years, I have advocated for protections for transgender youth in my community. During that time, I have had the horrible experience of listening to my own adult neighbors lie in public forums about transgender youth as a whole. Adults in my community have said that transgender youth in our school district put their “biological girls” at risk for sexual harassment and sexual assault. But we know that simply isn’t true - the perpetrators of sexual violence against girls and women are overwhelmingly men, and transgender youth are much more likely to be the targets of such violence than they are to be the perpetrators of it.

What’s worse is that the falsely-based vitriol from these neighbors and state-level organizers, has led some of these adults to directly target a transgender athlete in my community. I have watched powerlessly as these adults have organized in-person and online hate attacks on an individual child. They have been able to tell blatant lies about this young person, drawing international attention, without repercussion.

Last month, one of your own colleagues unapologetically perpetrated the abusive act of doxxing a young person in a community that neighbors my own. Causing national outrage, it was a clear act of intentional harm to a child. As in the previous example of doxxing a minor, this child’s family has no legal pathway to repair the harm done, this time by an elected representative of our state government.

No child should ever be subjected to the type of behavior from an adult anywhere who wishes to do them harm in the form of doxxing. Please vote “ought to pass” on LD 537 as written to contribute to meaningful protections for the young people of Maine.

Thank you for your time and consideration on this matter.  
Sincerely,

Ashley Schumacher, RN, BSN, BA Women’s Studies  
Freeport, Maine