



Maine School Superintendents Association



OFFICERS—2024-25

TESTIMONY NEITHER FOR NOR AGAINST

L.D. 537

PRESIDENT
MARIA LIBBY
MSAD 28/FIVE TOWN CSD
CAMDEN, 04843

AN ACT TO PROHIBIT THE DOXING OF A MINOR AND
TO AUTHORIZE A RELATED CIVIL ACTION

March 3, 2025

PRESIDENT-ELECT
DR. ANDREW DOLLOFF
YARMOUTH SCHOOL DEPARTMENT
YARMOUTH, 04096

Senator Carney, Representative Kuhn and members of the Judiciary Committee, I am Eileen King, the executive director of the Maine School Superintendents Association, testifying on behalf of the MSSA Legislative Committee neither for nor against L.D. 537, *An Act to Prohibit the Doxing of a Minor and to Authorize a Related Civil Action*.

VICE PRESIDENT
RHONDA SPERREY
RSU 64/MSAD 64
CORINTH, 04427

SECRETARY/TREASURER
BENJAMIN SIROIS
VALLEY UNIFIED REGIONAL
SERVICE CENTER
FORT KENT, 04743

MSSA appreciates the Legislature's recognition of the serious risks doxing poses to minors. The unauthorized disclosure of personal identifying information, as defined in L.D. 537, can lead to targeted harassment, intimidation, threats, and real-world harm to students and their families.

PAST PRESIDENT
PATRICIA HOPKINS
MSAD 11
GARDINER, 04345

Current Maine laws recognize the severity of similar offenses:

- **Stalking (17-A MRSA §210-A)** criminalizes conduct that causes a person to fear for their safety, which aligns with the definition of doxing in L.D. 537.
- **Harassment (17-A MRSA §506-A)** penalizes repeated, unwanted communication that intimidates or alarms the victim.
- **Maine's Bullying Law (20-A MRSA §6554)** requires schools to intervene when bullying causes emotional distress or disrupts a student's education—circumstances that are often the result of doxing incidents.

EILEEN E. KING
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

As education leaders, we have seen how online threats create significant safety concerns, disrupt school environments, and contribute to severe emotional and psychological distress for students.

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We unfortunately saw this play out just last month in MSAD 51, when the high school was forced to add extra security measures following the doxing of an athlete there. When this happens, it affects everyone. Students, teachers and staff are more anxious and on alert. It inhibits students' mental health, worsens the school climate, and makes it harder to learn.

Leading for equity, excellence and opportunity for all Maine Students

We firmly support efforts to deter these kinds of situations and better protect our students. We echo this statement shared by MSAD 51 Superintendent Jeffrey Porter in an email to his school community last month:

“I want to express the district’s unwavering support for all of our students. This support is not based upon any viewpoint, opinion or identity. This support is unconditional for all students as valued members of our school community.”

We share Superintendent Porter’s unconditional support for every student.

The reason that our association is testifying neither for nor against is because our members do not feel we are in the best position to support or oppose a particular legal action, such as the civil action laid out in L.D. 537. However, our school administrators believe in protecting all students and making our educational environments as safe as possible for every Maine child.

We appreciate the opportunity to provide input on this important issue and look forward to working with policymakers to ensure Maine’s laws adequately protect students from online threats and harassment.