

To: Senator Carney, Representative Kuhn and members of the Judiciary Committee

From: Lisa Belanger, resident of North Yarmouth and retired psychiatric nurse practitioner

Subject: Testimony in support of LD 537 – “An Act to Prohibit the Doxing of a Minor and to Authorize a Related Civil Action”

Date: March 3rd, 2025

I am writing to you today in support of LD 537. I am frankly surprised that Maine currently has no law that protects minors from doxing (disclosure of personal identifying information without consent and knowing the disclosure may result in harm to the individual). I think most people would agree that this behavior is unacceptable and should result in significant consequences to the perpetrator, as this bill outlines.

Children are particularly vulnerable to this type of attack given they are not adults and not equipped with the same level of experience or developmental maturity to adequately protect themselves emotionally. The enormity of the stress may cause irreparable emotional injury and the potential for suicidal ideation. The fact that this bill arose from a recent event of this nature is very troubling but what is more egregious is that the person responsible was a member of the Maine legislature. As if that was not enough, I was then mortified to learn that the legislator was a former nurse. Unbelievable.

In closing, please act swiftly to better ensure that doxing of minors is something that we never see happen again in Maine. Thank-you