

Debra Susi  
Gardiner, ME  
LD 537

March 3rd, 2025

Subject: Testimony in Support of LD 537: An Act to Prohibit Doxing of a Minor and to Authorize a Related Civil Action

Dear Members of the Judiciary Committee,

My name is Debra Susi and I am writing today to express my strong support for LD 537: An Act to Prohibit Doxing of a Minor and to Authorize a Related Civil Action.

Throughout my lifetime I have been privileged to hold many roles and titles in my life: wife, mother, manufacturing engineer, theatre director, mentor, and friend. One title I am most proud to add to that list is "Teacher." In my role as "teacher", I have taught hundreds of students, many who now include the children and grandchildren of some of my very first students. Additionally, I been honored to receive several distinctions throughout my long career including the 2022 Somerset County Teacher of the Year and recognition as a semifinalist for the 2023 Maine State Teacher of the Year.

You can't spend that length of time in a classroom without learning a lot of lessons. The lesson that has had the largest impact in my career is simple: In order for our students to attend school, engage in learning and carry their education outside the school walls and into the workplace, the physical, emotional, and mental safety of each unique learner must be met. Today, the internet and digital communications have impacted our world in ways none of us could not have possibly imagined 38 years ago. The truth is our students have become less safe. This includes the malicious practice of doxing—the intentional public release of personal identifying information without consent, with the intent to harm. For minors who become targets of doxing, the consequences can be devastating. Exposure of their personal information makes them vulnerable to harassment, stalking, and even physical harm. This exposure can disrupt their education, damage their mental health, and place their families at risk.

LD 537 is a necessary step toward safeguarding Maine's children from these dangers. The bill recognizes the real threats that doxing poses and ensures that those responsible for harming minors through this practice are held accountable. It provides essential protections that will help create a safer environment for our students both in and out of the classroom.

I urge you to support this critical legislation and stand with Maine's families and educators in protecting our children from the dangers of online harassment.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,  
Debra Susi  
VPA Chair & Theatre Arts Instructor  
Maine Central Institute