Emilia Toth Portland LD 537

TO:The Honorable Anne Carney
Representative Amy Kuhn
Members of the Judiciary Committee
DATE:March 3, 2025
RE:An Act to Prohibit the Doxing of a Minor and to Authorize a Related Civil Action

Good morning, Senator Carney and Representative Kuhn,

My name is Emilia Toth. I'm a resident of Portland and a staff member with the League of Women Voters Maine. I have been closely following the bills within the 132nd legislature, and I am testifying in support of LD 537.

When I was a teenager, I received threatening calls and text messages from an unknown number in response to my advocacy for women's rights. The messages rolled in by the dozens: threatening my safety, my life, my family's safety, and calling me several terrible names. I had never felt more unsafe. I eventually discovered that a supposed friend had given my personal information to another peer who was angry at my activism. It was a non-issue after that, though I never felt fully safe again. In light of recent events, I feel it is more important now than ever to ensure minors are protected. To have a local politician dox a young person is a despicable violation of safety, especially with such a large, public audience. I cannot begin to imagine the effect this will have on the doxed individual. All I can hope is that that person is well and getting the support they need, and the government is doing everything in their power to ensure nothing like this will ever happen again. This should have been a preventable issue; It should not have happened at all.

I am glad that our state lawmakers have stepped up to introduce a state bill that protect young people from being doxed. I urge you to vote Ought to Pass on LD 537.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely, Emilia Toth Portland, ME March 3, 2025