



# Maine Trial Lawyers Association

160 Capitol Street, P.O. Box 438, Augusta, Maine 04332-0438  
(207) 623-2661 • FAX (207) 621-0118  
mtla@mtla.org

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March 6, 2025

State Senator Anne Carney  
Representative Amy Kuhn  
Co-Chairs, Committee on Judiciary  
State House, Room 438  
Augusta, Maine  
Delivered Electronically

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

My name is Chris Boots. I live in South Portland. I practice law at Berman & Simmons, a state-wide firm that represents victims in personal injury and medical malpractice cases. I am also a co-chair of the Legislative Committee of the Maine Trial Lawyers Association. I am writing on behalf of the MTLA to voice our strong support for L.D. 537, *An Act to Prohibit the Doxing of a Minor and to Authorize a Related Civil Action*.

L.D. 537 is consistent with the MTLA's goal of expanding the civil justice system to increase private rights of action for inflicted harms. Our civil justice system currently provides redress to individuals who suffer from a range of negligently or intentionally inflicted harms. L.D. 537 represents a modest broadening of that existing framework, allowing, justly, those minors harmed by a doxing incident to pursue redress in court and obtain civil damages commensurate with the harm done to them. This, in turn, will disincentivize harmful conduct that targets our most vulnerable. L.D. 537 is also consistent with MTLA's goal of protecting the Seventh Amendment right to trial by jury. The bill's creation of a new civil action within the existing civil justice system ensures that both plaintiffs and defendants in doxing cases will have the right to have a jury determine a case on its merits, serving as an important procedural safeguard against abuse of the new civil action. The bill further protects First Amendment rights, by creating a defense in doxing cases where the defendant's conduct is, in fact, lawfully protected speech.

We appreciate your consideration.

Sincerely,

Christopher C. Boots, Esq.  
Co-Chair  
Maine Trial Lawyers Association Legislative Committee

