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LD 537

Thank you for the opportunity to address the Committee. I am writing in support of LD 537: An Act to Prohibit the Doxing of a Minor.

I'm a Maine resident and I raised my family here in Maine. One thing I love about Maine is the common sense, kindness, and civic-mindedness of the vast majority of my friends and neighbors - as well as the people I don't know at all but who I live side by side with day in and day out.

I used to believe that we were all united in our belief and desire to protect and look out for all children - no matter whose they are or where I am. If there is a child in trouble, we step up to help them and protect them from all threats, both physical and emotional.

Times have changed and now we have adults so caught up in their political beliefs that they apparently lose all sense of right and wrong and don't seem to believe all children deserve to be protected from the evils of the adult world.

As we have seen recently in Maine, I am horrified to realize that a grown adult would do something so immature and malicious as posting photos and identifying information of a child online in an effort to put a target on that child's back for their own gain. But we've now seen that happen, and we've seen the negative impact and threat to the safety of that child, their family, their school, and their community. Sadly, this act was carried out by an elected official who thought they were representing the citizens of Maine.

So now, we must use the power of the legislature to enable law enforcement and the judiciary system to ban this practice and institute legal consequences.

If society is going to fall apart and we can no longer rely on the implicit but unspoken social contract to protect all children in the state of Maine, we must make doxing a minor a criminal offense and prosecute those who feel this is acceptable. Posting a minor's image, contact information, and other personal information in the public eye and accusing them of wrongdoing is inexcusable and just plain wrong.

LD 537 will go a long way to making sure Maine is a place where the safety of our children is not in question. Thank you for your time and consideration.