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Testimony of Representative Anne Graham in support of

LD 537, An Act to Prohibit the Doxing of a Minor and to Authorize a Related Civil Action

Before the Joint Standing Committee on Judiciary

Senator Carney, Representative Kuhn and the honorable members of the Joint Standing Committee on Judiciary, I am Representative Anne Graham from House District 105, which includes the town of North Yarmouth and part of Gray. I am submitting testimony in support of **LD 537, An Act to Prohibit the Doxing of a Minor and to Authorize a Related Civil Action** presented by my good colleague from Freeport, Representative Melanie Sachs.

Sharing personally-identifying information online about an individual is never acceptable, and doing it to a child is even more harmful. This bill was submitted many months ago to address this important issue, but unfortunately, recent events have brought this topic to the forefront of our minds in the Legislature.

The last couple weeks have been extremely ~~ly~~ for a child and her family due to a member of this Legislature posting their photo online, without consent, for political gain. And frankly, this has been hard on my community, our schools and even me, personally. I know the child and her family, and I can't help imagining how I would feel if an elected official, a State Representative, singled my child out and exposed them to harassment, harm and even danger. My heart aches.

But the issue before us today is not about transgender athletes, or even specifically this incident. The issue we are discussing today is the safety of a child and that child's family. By posting unauthorized, inflammatory pictures and words to the internet, an adult can put a child's and family's life in jeopardy. The harm could follow them for the rest of her life.

As this bill's summary states: Under the bill, doxing is defined as the knowing disclosure of personal identifying information of a person, without that person's consent, and when that disclosure is intended to cause, and in fact either directly or indirectly causes: That person to reasonably fear for that person's own physical safety or to reasonably fear for the physical safety of a close relation of that person.

I ask you to take a moment and ask yourself, how would you feel if this was your child? Your grandchild? Or simply someone you love? I urge you to vote in support of LD 537 because we must protect our children. Your child could be the next victim of doxing.

Thank you for your consideration.