



Laurie Osher, PhD

13 Mayo Street
Orono, ME 04473
Phone: (207) 944-6743
Laurie.Osher@legislature.maine.gov

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

2 STATE HOUSE STATION
AUGUSTA, MAINE 04333-0002
(207) 287-1400
TTY: MAINE RELAY 711

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Testimony of Representative Laurie Osher 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 honorable members of the Joint Standing Committee on Judiciary, I am Laurie Osher, and I represent House District 25, which is most of Orono. Thank you for the opportunity to come before you today as a cosponsor in favor of **LD 537, An Act to Prohibit the Doxing of a Minor and to Authorize a Related Civil Action**.

One thing almost all of us can agree on is that we want the best for our kids. I am the mom of twin boys, who are now adults, and over the years, I have noticed that the love we all have for our kids is a shared value that connects us with each other. That is true for the parents I meet but also the aunts, uncles, cousins and many other people who care about the children in their lives.

I would venture to guess that many of us in the Legislature were motivated to run for office because we care so deeply about the safety, wellbeing and future of all Maine children. Sometimes we disagree on how best to achieve that, but when it comes to the ultimate outcome we are pursuing, we are on the same page.

This bill simply gives families legal recourse when an individual threatens the safety and future of a child by doxing them. The bill defines doxing 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: stalking, physical harm, property damage, or reasonable fear for the safety of that person and/or their family.

Doxing is a way to intimidate the targeted person and those around them, and the reason it works is because it often does put the victim of doxing in real danger. When that victim is a minor, families should be able to take legal action to protect their child.

This bill makes that possible with a thoughtful and measured approach, authorizing civil action for injunctive relief, damages or other appropriate relief. It even outlines defenses, including the reporting of crime to law enforcement and engaging in lawful activity protected by the U.S. and Maine constitutions.

Thank you for your consideration. I would be happy to answer any questions you may have for me.