



P.O. Box 261
South Freeport, ME

supportmainespublicschools.org

info@supportmainespublicschools.org

**Testimony in support of LD #537,
An Act to Prohibit the Doxing of a Minor
and to Authorize a Related Civil Action**

**Submitted to the Joint Standing Committee on Judiciary
of the 132nd Maine Legislature, First Regular Session
Monday, March 3, 2025**

Good morning Senator Carney, Representative Kuhn, and members of the Committee on Judiciary. My name is Allison Long and I am here on behalf of an organization called Support Maine's Public Schools. We are a statewide nonprofit working to support communities and school boards against extremist attacks on their public schools. Our mission is to organize, equip, and empower Mainers to defend the rights of all students to a safe, inclusive, and equitable public education.

A large part of our work involves tracking where extremist attacks are happening around Maine. These attacks are happening throughout the United States, including here in Maine. There are repeated patterns and tactics, especially when it comes to doxing.

Extremist groups target specific districts to further their agendas. They draw attention to the targeted district from their Maine followers and from networks outside our state. These followers descend on the district en masse, both in person and digitally. Social media is then flooded with information, both true and false, about individuals in the district, frequently including minor students. Often these students have bravely spoken up in defense of their identities, their friends, and their communities. These childrens' names, schools, e-mail addresses, social media accounts, photos, and any other information the extremists can find are shared widely. The intent is fear, intimidation, and harm. These extremist networks span the nation and sometimes the globe, and the negative attention and threats brought to these brave kiddos and their families are dangerous and life-altering.

Here are just a few examples we have seen here in Maine.

A student school board representative spoke up in favor of a new school-based health center in her school. Extremists contacted a postsecondary institution she had applied to and demanded a copy of her application. Fortunately, they weren't successful, but if they had been, rest assured it would have been shared widely.

A student athlete won a regional championship. Maine extremists doxed and harassed her and her information was blasted across worldwide platforms. A mob showed up at a subsequent competition, physically encroaching on the competition space to harass the student. Video of the harassment was then posted widely.

A seventh grader spoke at a school board meeting in favor of a challenged book. Extremists videotaped her testimony and doxed her, altering her words, mocking a mental health episode she described, and suggested to her school board that she was a violent threat to her peers. This student no longer attends school in that district and her family has had to increase the security at their home.

And just two weeks ago, as you are all well aware, another high school student athlete was targeted by a Maine state lawmaker.

For years, these extremist adults have been actively bullying and victimizing Maine children. It has to stop. Protecting our public schools starts with protecting our students. If they aren't safe to learn and grow, none of the rest of our work matters. Please vote "Ought to Pass."

Thank you to Representative Sachs for submitting this bill and thank you to all of you for hearing me today.

Please also consider:

- Unsafe students are unable to learn.
- Schools repeatedly teach about the harms of bullying and forbid the behavior, yet these instances from adults go without consequences.
- This bill promotes human dignity for all kids of all identities.
- Potential young leaders are being discouraged from using their voices because it can be so dangerous.