



March 1, 2025

Chairpersons Carney and Kuhn, Senators Haggan and Talbot Ross, and Representatives Babin, Caruso, Dana, Henderson, Lee, O'Halloran, Poirier, Pugh, Sato, and Sinclair:

My name is Christine Dyke and I am the Lead Minister of First Parish Congregational Church, UCC, in Gorham. I am speaking in support of LD537 to Prohibit the Doxing of a Minor and to Authorize a Related Civil Action. It is unfortunate that we have to legislate behavior that keeps minors safe. That should not only be a part of our lives as adults, but is also our commitment to each other as residents of this state and country.

The faith tradition in which I stand challenges us to care for all people, and especially those who are most vulnerable. We support a person's right to receive gender-affirming care, including minors, and to live with the gender they affirm. We affirm that they should be equal with others, and participate fully in activities that are designated by gender, using the gender they affirm. Targeting minors who are seeking such care must not be part of the Maine way of life. Actions that encourage harm and shame must not be allowed, and if that means that a law is needed, then you all have the means of making that happen.

In this country, addresses are not private, but the publication of such information with the intent to target minors should not be lawful. With the pull back of content moderation from many social media sites, lawmakers must act to keep minors safe. Violence and the encouragement of violence must not be allowed, and I hope that a law and its consequences will give people who contemplate such actions the time to rethink the harm that will result.

We stand with transgender people of all ages as they seek to be the people they are created to be, and as they teach us all the breadth and depth of the diversity that is humanity. I ask you to stand with the most vulnerable and support the LD537.

Thank you