

Testimony in Support of LD #537 - An Act to Prohibit the Doxing of a Minor and to Authorize a Related Civil Action

Good morning/afternoon, Senator Carney, Representative Kuhn, and members of the Judiciary Committee. My name is Heather Cimellaro; I am a resident of Auburn, and I am here today to testify in support of LD 537 as the mother of a transgender child who would do anything to protect them and to protect all the other children here in Maine from the vileness of adult bullies.

My child is not only trans. My child is beautiful. My child is creative. My child loves olives and sardines. My child can't sleep without their blankie. My child loves to color and paint. My child hates bedtime. My child loves their siblings. My child loves Roblox. My child hates blowing her nose. My child is afraid of spiders. My child has amazing comedic timing. My child loves to be read to. My child loves to be held. My child hates grocery shopping. My child is loving. My child just lost their two front teeth. My child is kind. My child is precious.

My child's gender identity, while important, is only a small piece of who they are. It's unfathomable, but we have seen first hand adults here in Maine who have taken it upon themselves, for their own selfish, manipulative reasons, to dox children. This includes my own Representative, Laurel Libby, who, by the way, lives up the street from me, and served lemonade on my front porch to my trans child in her first campaign.

My first reaction to the doxxing here in Maine was not anger, but fear and despair. Our children are so precious, and deserve the world. We are the only ones who have the power to protect Maine's kids from being the targets of discriminatory acts. These so-called adults who have doxed minors have shown us that ALL of our children are at risk of harm and damage, especially those in protected classes. That's a dangerous message.

LD 537 is a necessary step to be taken to address this issue, and a vote in favor would demonstrate true leadership on your part. You need to be an example of upholding the dignity, privacy, and safety of the children of Maine. Thank you all very much for the opportunity to testify today, and I am happy to answer any questions you may have.