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*Testimony of Representative Suzanne Salisbury 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 other distinguished members of the Joint Standing Committee on Judiciary, I am Representative Sue Salisbury and I represent House District 128, which includes part of Westbrook. I am here today to testify in support of **LD 537, An Act to Prohibit the Doxing of a Minor and to Authorize a Related Civil Action**.

This session, there have already been issues related to rights to privacy, information sharing online, and publicly shared information edited after the fact. As we consider this bill, we need to ask ourselves, where is the line?

Let's look at an example of what doxing might look like: A healthcare provider, say a nurse, discovers that one of her daughter's friends had a nose job. The nurse in question is adamantly opposed to minors getting plastic surgery, and she has made it her life's work to stop this from happening. A few days later, she sees online that this young woman won a local pageant. Furious that this young woman has "unfairly" won, she screenshots the picture, circulates the young woman's face, blurs out all the other contestants' faces, and shares the photo online with a tag that says, "People who have plastic surgery should not be allowed to compete in pageants!"

In this example, the problem is not that the person shared the photo of the student receiving her award. The problem is that she disclosed personal identifying information of a person without that person's consent. She shared private personal and medical information about this minor, potentially putting her in harm's way. Other people who feel the same way about minors getting plastic surgery may now target this young woman. She may harm herself because of the spotlight being shined on her.

As parents, grandparents, aunts, uncles and reasonable adults, we work hard to keep children safe. We protect them with legislation, we empower schools to educate them about the dangers

of the internet and how to be careful when sharing images. We need to take this further and add another layer of protection. Doxing of a minor is happening, and we need to hold people accountable for their actions.

Thank you for your consideration.