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March 3, 2025

Senator Anne Carney, Chair
Representative Amy Kuhn, Chair
Committee on Judiciary
100 State House Station
Augusta, Maine 04333

Re: *L.D. 537, An Act to Prohibit the Doxing of a Minor and to Authorize a Related Civil Action.*

Greetings, Senator Carney, Representative Kuhn and esteemed members of the Committee on Judiciary, I am writing today to in support of LD 537, *An Act to Prohibit the Doxing of a Minor and to Authorize a Related Civil Action.*

In 2023, Representative Sachs reached out to my office to discuss the matter of a transgender child in her district whose private information had been shared publicly by an adult activist. The result was that angry adults targeted this child with harassment and threats, disrupting this child's life and causing deep trauma to them and their family. Unfortunately, the law did not provide any protection from this bullying.

Under this bill, a suit could be brought by a harmed minor through their parents or legal representative against the doxer for civil damages, including attorneys' fees. The bill provides several defenses consistent with free speech protections and other public interest considerations.

I commend Representative Sachs for her work on this bill, which is intended to prevent this kind of despicable conduct from happening to other children. Because of First Amendment issues, this is a challenging area in which to regulate. But the language in this bill is carefully crafted to anticipate any potential First Amendment concerns and can be defended against a constitutional challenge.

I urge you to vote Ought to Pass on this much needed bill.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Aaron M. Frey". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'A' and a long, sweeping underline.

Aaron M. Frey
Attorney General