

Dear Judiciary Committee –

I am writing in support of LD 537 An Act to Prohibit the Doxing of a Minor and to Authorize a Related Civil Action. Passage of this law is essential to protect children and youth from exploitation by adults for their own political, personal, or ideological gain. Rep. Laurel Libby's recent doxing of a transgender youth is a prime example. This young person and her school were following the law and causing no harm. Yet Rep. Libby chose to post a photograph and statement that exposed a vulnerable youth to trauma in the form of threats and risk of serious mental health issues, including suicide. As we know, the suicide rate of transgender youth is much higher than the average adolescent, due in a large part to the targeting of fear and hate by people who do not know or understand the person or their situation. Please vote this law as Ought to Pass for the safety of the vulnerable young people in Maine.

Sincerely,

Louise Gephart, MSW

Brunswick