



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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Testimony of Rep. Cheryl A. Golek

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

Sen. Carney, Rep. Kuhn and members of the Judiciary Committee, my name is Cheryl Golek and I represent District 99, Harpswell and part of Brunswick. I am here to speak in support of **LD 537, An Act to Prohibit the Doxing of a Minor and to Authorize a Related Civil Action.**

In the past couple of weeks we have all witnessed firsthand the public horror of the doxing of a child in our state perpetrated by an adult, and we have seen how quickly hate was fueled and spread toward this child, their family, and even their school district. It is sad for me that we need such a bill to protect children from bullying and harassment, but we do.

Doxing, the act of publicly revealing private or personal information without consent, is a serious issue with real-world consequences. Online harassment can have devastating effects, and it is unacceptable for a child to be legally exposed to such cyberbullying. Doxing exposes highly personal and sensitive information, putting individuals at risk of identity theft, harassment, stalking, physical harm, and even death.

As legislators, we have seen a snapshot of real-life doxing on our children, and in our state, we know it's real. We know it affects our children, and we have the power and responsibility to put things in place to protect them from the outsourced harm caused by doxing.

This bill will give those targeted by these individuals the ability to pursue recourse, reclaim their privacy, hold perpetrators accountable, and regain a sense of safety.

I urge my colleagues to stand with me in supporting and passing this vital legislation. Our children's safety is at stake, and we must act now.

Thank you for your attention and consideration of this crucial issue.

Sincerely, representative

Cheryl A. Golek