

Testimony in Support of LD 537: An Act to Prohibit Doxing of Minors

Presented to the Maine State Legislative Judiciary Committee  
By the High School Principals of Cumberland County, Maine

Esteemed members of the Judiciary Committee,

We, a group of school principals, submit this testimony in strong support of LD 537, a bill prohibiting the doxing of minors. As school leaders, we are entrusted not only with the academic growth of our students but also with their safety and well-being. Above all, we strive to instill values of kindness, respect, and humanity – values that should guide our broader society as well.

Unfortunately, we have witnessed firsthand how these principles are too often abandoned when young people become targets of online harassment. The recent doxing of Maine students underscores the urgent need for this legislation. When minors are thrust into public controversy, their safety, mental health, and sense of security are compromised—consequences no child should have to endure.

Doxing — the harmful act of publicly disclosing an individual’s private information without consent, often with the intent to cause harm — can lead to threats, harassment, and lasting emotional distress. Adolescents, who are still developing resilience and coping mechanisms, are particularly vulnerable to such attacks. Recent examples involving student athletes illustrate the profound harm such actions inflict. As a result of being doxed, some Maine students have faced harassment and threats, creating an unsafe environment not only for them but for their peers, their families, and their school communities. No minor should have to endure such trauma, particularly at the hands of an adult in a position of power. These cases serve as stark reminders of the harm inflicted when adults fail to uphold basic decency, and they undermine our shared responsibility to protect and uplift young people.

As educators, we firmly believe that every child deserves to grow and learn in an environment free from fear. We must resist the impulse to drag minors into political debates. Instead, we must lead with compassion and commit ourselves to creating a culture where all young people are treated with dignity and respect. We urge this committee to stand with us in protecting Maine’s youth by advancing LD 537. Let this be a step toward a more just and humane future, one where children are protected from harm, and where kindness prevails over division.

Thank you for your time and consideration. We welcome any questions and look forward to your leadership on this critical issue.

Respectfully submitted,

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