

Senator Carney, Representative Kuhn, and members of the Joint Standing Committee on Judiciary:

My name is Stephanie Mindykowski. I am a resident of Rockland and I am testifying in support of LD 537. I submit these remarks as a member of the First Universalist Church in Rockland, a congregation of the Unitarian Universalist faith tradition, which affirms and promotes justice, equity and compassion in human relations, and the inherent worth and dignity of every person. I support the Maine UU State Advocacy Network (MUUSAN), which links Maine's 26 UU congregations in working for legislation that embodies those values.

I believe LD 537 should become law because:

- LD 537 will prohibit the doxing of all Maine minors. Doxing, in which private details of a victim is made public, is used to create fear and intimidate children and youth who are perceived to be "different" and should be excluded from society, especially trans children. Maine has unfortunately experienced a very painful example of doxing of a trans youth recently. But doxing can also be used against vulnerable minors whose perceived "difference" is deemed "less than", such as people with disabilities, people who live in poverty, immigrants and refugees, people of color, etc.
- The fear of doxing is real for all Maine minors. Minors who learn that a peer has been the victim of doxing may fear that they will be next.
- It is the responsibility of the Maine legislature and all Mainers to send a clear message that we cherish and support all children and youth, and will do all we can to keep them safe from harm. Maine has one of the nation's most robust laws supporting LGBTQ rights, especially amongst children, and it is our duty as Mainers to uphold that standard, especially in light of current developments on the federal level, as well as developments in some states to suppress the rights and well-being of transpeople.

For all these reasons, we need to protect all Maine children and youth. I urge you to vote Ought to Pass on LD 537.

Thank you,

Stephanie Mindykowski