



Testimony before the Joint Standing Committee on Judiciary

**An Act to Prohibit the Doxing of a Minor and to Authorize a Related Civil Action**

March 3, 2025

Senator Carney, Representative Kuhn, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Jane Field, and I am the Executive Director of the Maine Council of Churches, a nonprofit coalition of seven mainline Protestant member denominations that have more than 400 congregations in Maine with over 50,000 parishioners in their care. Founded in 1938, the Council speaks with a prophetic voice of faith, connecting people within, through, and beyond the church to create a more just, compassionate, and peaceful world. All that we do is grounded in **the central value of love of neighbor** and in the biblical imperative to **protect the vulnerable and hold those who harm them accountable**.

It's because of these core values that the Council **supports passage of LD 537**.

Something we in the church and you in government share in common is **a commitment to providing for the safety and nurturing of children and youth and protecting them from harm**. Children are among the most vulnerable of our neighbors, and children who belong to marginalized groups that are most frequently targeted by doxers—because of their race, ethnicity, religion, gender identity, sexual orientation—are the most vulnerable of the vulnerable. **We must do more to protect Maine's children and youth from the harm doxing does**.

**We believe in the inherent dignity of every person**, including every young person, so we condemn doxing because it removes the human-ness of a targeted person. Doxers and those who share or act on their posts stop seeing those they are harming as *people*; they merely see words posted on a screen, see their targets as pawns whose personal stories can help them promote certain policy changes or score political points with their base. **Doxing is literally de-humanizing** and erodes the sense of empathy, love, and compassion that's essential to a healthy and safe community. And it's **especially heinous when the dehumanized victims are vulnerable children**.

The **emotional, psychological, and spiritual toll** doxing takes on victims, perpetrators, witnesses, and the community as a whole is **profoundly devastating, especially for our children**. LD 537 will help us prevent it, and in cases where deterrence fails, it will help us hold perpetrators accountable.

**For these reasons, the Maine Council of Churches urges you to vote OUGHT TO PASS on LD 537.**

*Episcopal Diocese of Maine, Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, Presbyterian Church (USA),  
Religious Society of Friends, Unitarian Universalist Association, United Church of Christ, United Methodist Church*