

Senator Rafferty
Representative Brennan
Members of the Joint Standing Committee on Education & Cultural Affairs

Senator Rafferty, Representative Brennan, distinguished members of the committee, our names are Corinne & Paige Cunningham, we are a mother & daughter living in Buckfield. We are writing to urge you to support LD 254: An Act to Update the Sex Education & Consent Curriculum.

For us, sex ed matters because folks need to learn about their own biology, and how to better understand others. This plays a part in understanding what others are going through in life, as well as understanding how to be kind to yourself and others in terms of decisions regarding health, safe sex, and reproductive rights.

At fifteen and homeschooled, Paige's sex ed has been well rounded, informational, and accepting. She has learned about reproductive health, safe sex, and queer sex. Corinne's experience was a traditional high school class in the 1990's where she learned briefly about reproductive systems, but mostly how to prevent pregnancy and STD's by abstinence.

When Paige came out as bi, she felt supported by way of having multiple resources provided and available to get the information she needed and wanted beyond the traditional heteronormative information.

Corinne feels there could have been more information about birth control access, talk beyond heteronormative relationships, and about what to actually expect during sex. Taking away the shame and stigma around sex back then (and probably today) could have been empowering and helpful. The world would look a lot more accepting, open, curious, and empowered if everyone had high quality sex education.

Please vote "Ought to Pass" on LD 254: An Act to Update the Sex Education & Consent Curriculum.

Thank you for your time & attention,

Corinne & Paige Cunningham
5 Deere Dr
Buckfield, ME
04220

Corinne Cunningham
Buckfield
LD 254

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