

I am in strong support of **LD 217**, *An Act to Require Schools to Provide Access to Free Condoms for Students in Grades 9 to 12 in the School Nurse's Office*. As a parent of **my two daughters, ages 17 and 15**, I value that schools can be a safe place for my child/children to access information and resources about sexual health.

**I believe in prevention and safety, both of which are the direct results of giving our youth the resources and information to make those choices. Thinking our youth will abstain from having sex, because we told them to, is unwise, as we have seen time and again that it does happen. Giving our youth a chance to prevent getting and spreading STDs and the chance to prevent unwanted pregnancies, that is what providing condoms does for them. It's a simple fact and it's a pretty simple solution to achieve prevention and safety.**

No matter how open I am with my own child/children, there are always reasons why teenagers might feel uncomfortable coming to me with their questions and needs when they become sexually active. I want to be their trusted source of information and support, but I also believe in the value of multiple sources and forms of support so my kid/s and everyone else's kids can be as safe as possible.

We know teenagers are having sex, whether we adults believe they are ready or not. Let's deploy our resources wisely to keep them protected and give them the healthiest possible start to their young adult lives.

I support LD 217, and also request that committee members amend the bill to make it more equitable and impactful by changing the language to say that condoms can be accessed in the school nurse's office "or locations authorized by the school nurse." I urge the Committee to vote YES on LD 217.