

Dear Senator Rafferty, Representative Murphy, and esteemed members of the Education and Cultural Affairs Committee,

My name is Amorette Hynes, and I am submitting testimony 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*. I am a student in grade 11 at Maine Connections Academy located in the greater Portland area.

I support LD 217 because:

- Everyone regardless of wealth, class, education, etc. deserves equal access to contraceptives.
- Reliable access to contraceptives encourages safe sex, as well as makes it more accessible.
- Access to contraceptives allows for open conversations and education around safe sex.

I 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.

Thank you,  
Amorette Hynes