

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

My name is Catherine Wiese, 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 GAHS MSAD-11 located in Gardiner.

I support LD 217 because:

- Multiple points to healthcare access with support my and my peers' health.
- Only 55% of sexually active teens reported using a condom the last time they had sex, according to the 2023 MIHYS results.
- Easy and private access to condoms would keep me and my peers safe without shame.

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,
Catherine Wiese