

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

My name is Fallon Culley, 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 12 at Waynflete located in Portland.

I support LD 217 because:

- Of the statistics: 35% of Maine teens are sexually active, but 55% of them reported using a condom last time.
- STI rates in Maine are on the rise!
- About half of reported cases of certain STIs were among young people (ages 15-24). Don't ignore the numbers.

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,
Fallon Culley