

James Peary
Jackson
LD 217

I support 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 an Uncle and Great Uncle, value that schools can be a safe place for my grandnieces and nephews to access information and resources about sexual health.

I have lived in Maine for 44 years and taught at the Maine Community College System as an Instructor and currently as an Adjunct Instructor. Seen firsthand, how events that occurred as teenagers impact their life now. Students are attending colleges with young kids and struggling to meet the demands of a young family and going to college. Having access to sexual health and pregnancy would have changed their lives now.

Teenagers might feel uncomfortable coming to me with their questions and needs when they become sexually active. I want to be a trusted source of information and support. Plus believe in the value of multiple sources and forms of support so everyone kids can be as safe as possible.

Teenagers are having sex, whether we want to 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.