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LD 217

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 a 17 year old boy, I value that schools can be a safe place for my child/children to access information and resources about sexual health. I feel strongly that condoms and comprehensive, evidence-based sexual health information should be accessible to all high school students in Maine in order to prevent unplanned pregnancies and protect against STDs. Contracting an STD can lead to lifelong health complications and an unplanned pregnancy can derail a teenager's future.

Equal access to condoms for teenagers across Maine will help Maine's kids act more responsibly when they decide to become sexually active.

No matter how open I am with my own child, there are always reasons why my son might feel uncomfortable coming to me with his questions and needs when he becomes sexually active. I believe in the value of multiple sources and forms of support so my son 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.