

Margot Carpenter
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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 two children who attended all grades in the Belfast area school system, I value schools that can offer a safe place for children to access information and resources about sexual health.

Closing access to sexual health opportunities is a thing of the past. It's not a subject to be whispered about or condemned. We can do better. There are always reasons why teenagers might feel uncomfortable coming to a parent with their questions and needs when they become sexually active. I believe in the value of multiple sources and forms of support for Maine's children so they 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.