

Susan Dunn
Buxton
LD 217

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

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 school nurse for 24 years in both elementary and high school settings in the Bonny Eagle school district, I witnessed directly the complexities of adolescents navigating sexual and reproductive health information and decision-making in their early years.

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." Maine's young people deserve healthy starts to their sexual and reproductive lives, with all the tools at their disposal to protect themselves and their peers. I urge the Committee to vote YES on LD 217.