

TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION TO

L.D. 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

April 14, 2025

Senator Rafferty, Representative Noonan Murphy and members of the Education and Cultural Affairs Committee, I am Steven Bailey, the Executive Director of the Maine School Management Association, testifying on behalf of the legislative committees of the Maine School Boards Association and the Maine School Superintendents Association in opposition to L.D. 217.

Similar to L.D. 155, which would provide free menstrual products in certain schools, our associations appreciate the intent of this bill and believe in proven public health options that encourage students to make healthy choices.

In fact, many Maine schools already provide condoms at the nurse's office. Our larger concern with this bill is a lack of funding. This would impose another new mandate on local school districts, without the requisite state funding to pay for it. A similar bill has been repeatedly rejected in California because of these concerns, and we do not want to see costs fall on the backs of local taxpayers here in Maine.

We believe this should remain a local decision, and we ask you to vote "Ought Not to Pass" on L.D. 217.