



Testimony in Opposition to 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

April 14, 2025

Senator Rafferty, Representative Brennan, and Members of the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs:

My name is Nick Adolphsen, and I serve as the Executive Director of the Christian Civic League of Maine. It likely comes as no surprise to this committee that we are providing information today in opposition to LD 217, a bill that would **require** public schools to provide free condoms to students in grades 9 through 12.

There are three key reasons we urge you to oppose this legislation:

1. This bill ignores the moral and spiritual nature of human sexuality.

Sex is not merely a biological function or a recreational activity. According to the biblical ethic—an ethic that has grounded civilizations for centuries—sexual intimacy is a gift from God, designed for the covenant of marriage between a man and a woman. It is meant to unite, to protect, and to bless. When we normalize casual sex for children, we are not offering freedom—we are cheapening something sacred and failing to tell the truth about the emotional, physical, and spiritual consequences that can follow. Ironically, those pushing this bill seem to agree that sex *is* serious—why else the rush to flood our schools with contraception? They recognize the risks but refuse to teach responsibility in any meaningful way.

2. This bill undermines the fundamental rights and role of parents.

We are deeply concerned about the growing trend of removing parents from conversations about their children's health, values, and decision-making. LD 217 assumes that school officials—not moms and dads—are the right people to shape a teenager's understanding of sex. That is not only wrong, it is harmful. Current Maine law already allows school personnel to provide sexual health services without notifying parents. This bill doubles down on that dangerous precedent. Parents should be the primary voices in shaping their children's understanding of relationships, boundaries, and identity. Instead of supporting that role, this bill bypasses it entirely.


3. This bill reflects a failed harm-reduction mindset.

Proponents argue that access to condoms will reduce harm. But this “harm-reduction” model has failed elsewhere. We've seen it with drugs in cities like Portland and San Francisco, where the promise of safe use has only fueled addiction, chaos, and deeper social breakdown. We see the same trajectory in our culture's approach to sex. Rather than call young people to a higher standard—abstinence, fidelity, purpose—we lower the bar and hope they don't get hurt. But they *are* getting hurt. The breakdown of

families, the rise in STDs, the confusion around identity and intimacy—these are not signs of success. They are symptoms of a culture that has stopped telling the truth about sex.

In conclusion, we don't oppose this bill simply because we're conservative or religious. We oppose it because it reflects a deeper lie—that sex is casual, that parents are irrelevant, and that young people are incapable of restraint or virtue. We believe Maine's children and families deserve better.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "N. Adolphsen". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "N" and a long, sweeping underline.

Nicholas Adolphsen
Executive Director