

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 Nathan and Norah Waldron, I value that schools can be a safe place for my child/children to access information and resources about sexual health.

It want all of our kids to be able to make healthy decisions about their relationships and their bodies. Access to information and free contraception is paramount to this. We know that condoms prevent pregnancy and the spread of STDs. Money and/or embarrassment should not be a barrier to safe sex.

No matter how open I am with my own child/children, there are always reasons why teenagers might feel uncomfortable coming to me with their questions and needs when they become sexually active. I want to be their trusted source of information and support, but I also believe in the value of multiple sources and forms of support so my kid/s 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.