

**MAINE
PRINCIPALS'
ASSOCIATION**



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*MPA is an Equal
Opportunity Organization*

TO: Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs
FROM: Maine Principals' Association Legislative Committee
**RE: Neither For Nor Against 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**
DATE: April 14, 2025

Senator Rafferty, Representative Murphy, and distinguished members of the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs. My name is Dr. Holly Blair, and I am the Executive Director of the Maine Principals' Association – Professional Division. The MPA represents more than 700 PreK-12 Principals and Assistant Principals, CTE Directors and Assistant Directors, and Athletic Directors of public and private schools in Maine.

The MPA Legislative Committee is neither for nor against LD 217. According to the 2023 Maine Youth Health Survey, 7% of middle school students and 35% of high school students self-report as being sexually active. While schools are not promoting sexual activity, many high schools throughout the state currently offer condoms to students at no cost. Because this may not be the case for all schools, this bill would support those schools who do not, therefore making it more equitable for all.

Our concern is that this would be another unfunded state-wide mandate. We are also concerned about those who are allergic to latex. Without knowing, a school could inadvertently give a latex condom to a student who may have a partner who may be allergic.

Our final concern is regarding middle schools. To keep all students safe and with 7% of students in middle school reporting as having had sexual intercourse, we believe that condoms should be made available to students in the middle school nurse's office.

Maine is a local control state and schools and districts must do what they feel is best for their students and their own community. For these reasons, the MPA is Neither For Nor Against LD 217.