

Ashley Schumacher
Freeport
LD 394

As a substitute school nurse and a parent of a Maine public school student, I support the passing of LD 394. Respecting the autonomy and privacy of our young people simply makes sense. By passing this law and enacting the Department of Education's chapter 117, specifically Section 2, Item F regarding Privileged Communication, the rules rightly recognize that parents/guardians do not always provide the safe space they should for children to express themselves. School should always be a safe place for the children of Maine, especially with the counselors and social workers who assist the most vulnerable in our communities. Students need to know that, outside of risk of harm to themselves or others, they can trust school counselors and social workers to keep the information they disclose private. A parent's right to information does not outweigh a young person's right to privacy and autonomy. Thank you for your time and consideration.