

Senator Rafferty

Representative Brennan

Members of the Joint Standing Committee on Education & Cultural Affairs

Senator Rafferty, Representative Brennan, distinguished members of the committee, my name is Helen Jolley and I'm writing to ask you to support LD 254: An Act to Update the Sex Education & Consent curriculum.

Personally, sex ed matters because with more information, I can make better personal health decisions. As a Health teacher at the middle school level, sex ed is fundamental to personal and social wellness. As a student, my sex ed classes were minimal and focused around rote memorization and "the video". Despite having incredibly kind and hardworking health teachers, I rarely felt that I was getting the information about sex ed that I needed as a young person. When I was growing up, sex ed was (and still can be) quite controversial, so I believe my teachers were restricted in what content they could cover.

I envision a world where young people feel more comfortable in their bodies, where partners feel safe communicating about their relationship, where people have the ability to hold their boundaries in the face of pressure, where people are welcomed for who they are regardless of gender identity or sexual orientation, and where we are not fooled by harmful messages perpetuated by industries that take use sex to sell their products.

Please vote "ought to pass" on LD 254. Thank you.

Helen Jolley

94 Highbrook Rd

Bar Harbor, ME

04609