

Senator Rafferty

Representative Brennan

Members of the Joint Standing Committee on Education & Cultural Affairs

My name is Brianna Keefe-Oates and I write in support of LD 254. I myself benefited from comprehensive sexuality education as a teenager which taught me how to stay healthy while also acknowledging the importance of healthy relationships. That education stayed with me as I navigated romantic relationships throughout my life. I later taught sexual education classes myself, focusing on STI prevention as well as healthy relationships. I saw how much my students appreciated open discussions about these topics, benefited from support in practicing clear communication with partners, and learned clear, concrete information about how to protect oneself from STIs. As an epidemiologist I have studied the impacts of different kinds of sexual health education; the data are clear that medically accurate and comprehensive sexuality education has been found to reduce STIs and risky sexual behaviors. As a parent I want to ensure that my children, and all students in our state, have the tools to stay healthy while also learning about healthy relationships; skills which will last them a lifetime.

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

Thank you,

Brianna Keefe-Oates

Portland, ME