



American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network
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<https://www.fightcancer.org/states/maine>

Testimony of Julia MacDonald, American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network
In Support of LD 166: An Act to Prohibit the Sale of Tobacco Products in Pharmacies
and Retail Establishments Containing Pharmacies

May 13, 2025

Good afternoon, Senator Ingwersen, Representative Meyer, and members of the Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services. My name is Julia MacDonald, and I am testifying on behalf of the American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network (ACS CAN) in support of LD 166. We thank Representative Moonen for bringing this important legislation forward.

ACS CAN is the nonprofit, nonpartisan advocacy affiliate of the American Cancer Society. We advocate for evidence-based policies that reduce the cancer burden for everyone. As the nation's leading advocate for legislative solutions that help lower cancer's impact, ACS CAN ensures that cancer patients, survivors, and their families have a voice in public policy matters at all levels of government.

LD 166 proposes to prohibit the sale of tobacco products in pharmacies and retail establishments containing pharmacies. This measure is a critical step toward aligning the retail environment with public health goals. Pharmacies are trusted healthcare providers, and selling tobacco products in these settings sends conflicting messages to consumers seeking health-promoting products and services.

Research has shown that removing tobacco products from pharmacies can lead to decreased tobacco use. A study published in JAMA Internal Medicine found that San Francisco's ban on tobacco sales in pharmacies was associated with a significant reduction in the number of tobacco retailers and a decrease in tobacco consumption among residents.¹

Furthermore, tobacco use remains the leading preventable cause of cancer and cancer-related deaths. By eliminating tobacco sales in pharmacies, we can reduce tobacco accessibility and visibility, particularly among youth and individuals trying to quit, thereby supporting public health efforts to decrease tobacco-related morbidity and mortality.

¹ Apollonio, D. E., & Glantz, S. A. (2017). Tobacco control in pharmacies: A review of policies and practices. *JAMA Internal Medicine*, 177(3), 379–384.
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ACS CAN urges the committee to support LD 166. This legislation represents a meaningful advancement in our collective efforts to reduce tobacco use and its associated health burdens in Maine.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on this important issue.