

April 18, 2023

***Testimony for LD1215 An Act to End the Sale of Flavored Tobacco Products***

Hello Senator Baldacci, Representative Meyer, and honorable members of the Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services:

My name is Ellery MacGregor, and I am a student at UMaine Orono. I am writing you in favor of LD 1215, An Act to End the Sale of Flavored Tobacco Products.

Growing up as the youngest sister in a family from Maine, I never thought I would see tobacco addiction evolve as such a big problem with the massive impact that it has today. I grew up with two older sisters and unfortunately one summer I saw my younger sister of the two, Aidan, take off to summer camp right as vaping was becoming popular. My sister got addicted that summer and has not been able to quit since. She has tried to quit so many times, but has never been able to do it.

When the pandemic hit, Aidan decided to move home from college and my father had a no vaping rule in the house and my sister had no car which meant that she would be forced to quit. Unfortunately, this led to the both of us having to watch Aidan go through nicotine withdrawals and be sick for weeks. Aidan has admitted that vaping actually causes her more anxiety and now she just feels as if she is in a trap she cannot get out of. Shortly after that she committed to a partner who was already addicted to vaping and has no plans on quitting.

To quote my father, I will say I watched the light get sucked out of my sister from being addicted to nicotine and it all started with a flavor.

I urge you to vote in favor of Senator Jill Duson's bill, LD 1215, An Act to End the Sale of Flavored Tobacco Products to save others from getting hooked by flavors like my sister.

Ellery MacGregor

Student- University of Maine at Orono