

Sara McConnell
Lubec
LD 1215

Good afternoon, Senator Baldacci, Representative Meyer, and honorable members of the Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services: my name is Sara McConnell and I live in Lubec and flavors hooked me. I am here today to testify in favor of LD 1215, An Act To End the Sale of Flavored Tobacco Products.

Growing up in rural Maine my parents and grandparents all smoked. During middle school I decided to give it a try. My Mom had regular cigarettes, but I took a liking to my Dads menthols. I continued to smoke for over 16 years with numerous attempts to quit. It wasn't until my Dad, at the age of 49, died of lung cancer that I finally broke free.

I've lost my two grandmothers, a grandfather and many friends of the family to smoking related illnesses. I am so grateful that I no longer smoke. And I'm so proud of my Mom, who on her birthday June 1st, will be smoke free for 12 years! My brother still smokes, I really worry about him and I'm really concerned for my niece and nephew who are being bombarded with all of the new tobacco devices and flavors. Flavors hook Maine kids - lets put an end to flavored tobacco!