

Scott Morin
South Portland
LD 1215

Dear committee members,

I wish to testify in support of proposed bill LD1215 and the end of sale of flavored tobacco products. I am a practicing pulmonary and critical care physician in southern Maine. I see every day the devastating effects of nicotine addiction. I am particularly disturbed about the sale of flavored tobacco products that end up in the hands of adolescents and young users. Candy flavored nicotine is solely meant to create a new generation of nicotine addicts. We know that nicotine addiction created by smokeless tobacco products increases the risk of cigarette smoking (still the number one risk factor for cardiovascular disease and cancer). Maine continues to have one of the highest smoking rates in the country. Please don't be swayed by the argument that e-cigarettes or vaping can be an effective tool to quit smoking. This is a debatable contention given the extremely high nicotine levels sold in vaping cartridges (they are more likely to foster an addiction rather than treat it). Regardless flavorless electronic cigarettes would suffice if used to truly treat nicotine addiction.

Sincerely,

Scott Morin, DO
MaineHealth Pulmonary/Critical Care Medicine
Southern Maine Health Care