

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

My names is Blue Butterfield and I am a practicing physician assistant and mother of two teenage boys in Portland Maine. I am asking you to ban the sale of flavored tobacco products on both a professional and personal level.

Everyday at work at Maine Medical Center, I am overwhelmed by the amount of tobacco-associated disease I see. It's not just lung cancer that my patients are dying from, it's the chronic obstructive lung disease so severe that patients can't walk from the bed to the bathroom without gasping for breath. They have terrible vascular disease with a narrowing of their arteries that makes it difficult to walk because of leg pain.

My sons report to me that vaping of flavored products is rampant at their high school and it is infuriating that addictive products that are marketed for children are legal and accessible across the state.

I have been working in medicine for 25 years and have never encountered a smoker who didn't pick it up in their teenage (or earlier!) years.

I beg you for the health of our children and future adults, as well as the toll it takes on our medical delivery system, to ban these substances that were created to addict a new generation.

Sincerely,

Blue Butterfield PA-C
121 Neal St.
Portland, Maine 04102
(207) 329-3506