

Dear distinguished members of the committee on Health and Human Services. I urge you to oppose LD 1215. The last thing we need to do in Maine to address any type of substance use including tobacco/nicotine is to enact prohibition on such substances. We have spent the last century attempting to prohibit our way out of a public health issues and it has not been effective. The only thing that has been accomplished is the criminalization of otherwise law abiding citizens.

If LD 1215 were to pass, it would instantly make criminals out of numerous small business owners across Maine, as well as thousands of responsible adult tobacco and nicotine users. I myself was able to successfully quit smoking cigarettes by utilizing flavored electronic vaporizers as a harm reduction strategy. I am happy to say that because of the flavored vaporizers available to me, I have not smoked a cigarette for over 7 years. My health and my life is far superior because of this.

I urge you, please vote against this simplistic attempt at reducing youth tobacco use. The real issue here is education and marketing. These issues with regards to underage tobacco use can be effectively addressed without a blanket prohibition on an entire type of consumer product.