

**Joint Testimony of the American Lung Association and American Heart Association  
in Opposition to LD 1952  
“An Act to Allow On-Site Cannabis Consumption”**

Chairs Hickman, Supica & Members of the Joint Standing Committee on Legal & Veterans Affairs:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on LD 1952 “An Act to Allow On-Site Cannabis Consumption” in opposition to the measure which would allow for the on-site consumption of marijuana at “cannabis hospitality” establishments. By creating this establishment designation and allowing for the consumption of marijuana indoors the Legislature would significantly undermine Maine’s strong smokefree statutes.

The American Lung Association is the leading organization working to save lives by improving lung health and preventing lung disease, through research, education and advocacy. The work of the American Lung Association is focused on four strategic imperatives: to defeat lung cancer; to improve the air we breathe; to reduce the burden of lung disease on individuals and their families; and to eliminate tobacco use and tobacco-related diseases.

The American Heart Association is a relentless force for a world of longer, healthier lives. We are dedicated to ensuring equitable health in all communities. Through collaboration with numerous organizations, and powered by millions of volunteers, we fund innovative research, advocate for the public’s health and share lifesaving resources.

The American Lung Association and American Heart Association strongly believe that the use of marijuana should be prohibited in all places where the smoking of other tobacco products are prohibited. We have continued to fight for laws and policies to make our communities in Maine and across the country smokefree. All Americans deserve to live, work, study and play in smokefree environments. By implementing smokefree environments, all workers and patrons can be protected from the dangers of all types of secondhand smoke, including marijuana smoke.

The American Lung Association and American Heart Association are extremely concerned by this and the potential exposure to harmful secondhand smoke and aerosol to Mainers. Since marijuana smoke harms lung health, the American Lung Association opposes the inhalation of smoke or aerosol of marijuana. The American Lung Association and American Heart Association supports measures to require totally smokefree environments, including prohibiting the smoking or vaping of marijuana.

Secondhand marijuana smoke contains many of the same toxins and carcinogens found in directly inhaled tobacco smoke. The toxins can cause lung irritation, asthma attacks, and make

respiratory infections more likely. Exposure to secondhand marijuana smoke can exacerbate health problems especially for people with respiratory conditions like asthma, bronchitis, or COPD.

The U.S. Surgeon General has concluded that there is no safe level of exposure to toxic secondhand smoke.<sup>1</sup> The U.S. Surgeon General has also concluded that separating smokers from nonsmokers, cleaning the air, and ventilating buildings cannot eliminate exposure of nonsmokers to secondhand smoke. In addition, in a 2016 report, the Surgeon General concluded that secondhand e-cigarette emissions contain, “nicotine; ultrafine particles; volatile organic compounds such as benzene, which is found in car exhaust; and heavy metals, such as nickel, tin, and lead.”<sup>2</sup> The only effective way to fully protect nonsmokers from exposure to secondhand smoke and aerosol is to completely eliminate smoking and vaping in indoor public spaces.<sup>3</sup> We would request the bill be amended to ensure that marijuana cannot be consumed on site in food establishments that seek an exemption.

The American Lung Association and American Heart Association thank the Committee for their continued commitment to the health and wellbeing of the residents of Mainer and urge you to vote “Ought Not To Pass” on LD1952.

Sincerely,



Lance Boucher  
Assistant Vice President, State Public Policy  
American Lung Association  
[Lance.Boucher@Lung.org](mailto:Lance.Boucher@Lung.org)



Allyson Perron Drag  
Government Relations Director  
American Heart Association  
[Allyson.Perron@heart.org](mailto:Allyson.Perron@heart.org)



---

<sup>1</sup>U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). *The Health Consequences of Involuntary Exposure to Tobacco Smoke: A Report of the Surgeon General*. U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Coordinating Center for Health Promotion, National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion, Office on Smoking and Health, 2006.

<sup>2</sup> U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. *E-Cigarette Use Among Youth and Young Adults: A Report of the Surgeon General—Executive Summary*. Atlanta, GA: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion, Office on Smoking and Health, 2016.

<sup>3</sup>HHS, 2006.

Allyson Perron Drag  
American Lung Association and American Heart Association/American Lung  
Association/American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network  
LD 1952

This is joint testimony from the American Lung Association and American Heart  
Association in opposition