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## Christian Civic League of Maine

Senator Baldacci, Representative Meyer and members of the Maine Committee on Health and Human Services, I am Mike McClellan, Policy Director for the Christian Civic League of Maine. The Christian Civic League of Maine envisions a state and nation where God is honored, religious freedom flourishes, families thrive, and life is cherished. We believe a Biblical approach works in life and including in our governance. I might add here that in my life both my parents were affected by smoking, my mother died very young and my dad lived a long life but in his last years greatly regretted having been a smoker.

I am here to testify on LD 2157, An Act to Prohibit Tobacco Sales near Schools which is sponsored by Representative Moonen of Portland. The Christian Civic League of Maine began in the 1890's and has historically been involved in "Social Justice" issues, however...that phrase meant something very different back then compared to today. We have fought alcohol abuse, for women's right to vote and have a heart for adoption and foster care type issues. I spoke with Rep. Moonen last year about this bill and let him know that historically, this was in our "wheelhouse."

We wholeheartedly agree with the premise of this bill, to distance tobacco products and sales from children, we leave the operation aspects of how this occurs and dealing with existing businesses who might already be within the 1,000 feet to the skill and wisdom of the Health and Human Services Committee and then to the Maine Legislature.

I apologize as this is a busy day and I was not able to testify in person. If CCL Maine can be of support as you grapple with D 2157, please let me now.

God bless,

Mike

