



Maine School Superintendents Association



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TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF

L.D. 2157

AN ACT TO PROHIBIT TOBACCO SALES NEAR SCHOOLS

Senator Baldacci, Representative Meyer, and members of the Health and Human Services Committee. I am Eileen King, executive director of the Maine School Superintendents Association, testifying on behalf of the legislative committee of the Maine School Superintendents Association, in support of L.D. 2157.

The decision to ban the sales of tobacco within a certain distance from school districts is driven by concerns for the health and well-being of students.

Tobacco use is a major public health concern, and exposure to tobacco products can have detrimental effects on the health of individuals, particularly young people. Banning tobacco sales near schools aims to create a healthier environment for students and discourage the initiation of smoking.

Proximity of tobacco retailers to schools may increase the likelihood of students accessing and purchasing tobacco products. Maine School districts implement anti-tobacco education programs to raise awareness about the dangers of smoking. Banning tobacco sales in the nearby area reinforces the school's commitment to promoting a tobacco-free lifestyle and provides consistency in messaging.

We encourage that you support L.D. 2157 and consider legislation that imposes the same distance restrictions for establishments who sell marijuana and alcohol.