

Testimony in support of LD 210  
Hannah Siladi  
January 31, 2025

*Senator Rotundo, Representative Gattine, Senator Grohoski, Representative Cloutier, and honorable members of the Joint Standing Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs and the Joint Standing Committee on Taxation:*

My name is Hannah Siladi, and I live in Portland. I am a public health professional with 8 years of experience implementing preventative programming in the state. I am here testifying in favor of the tobacco tax increase included in LD 210.

The fact of the matter is that nearly 1 in 5 Maine Highschool students are using a tobacco product. I have a young kid myself and the reality that she will be exposed to such harmful, life-altering products in a few short years gives me (and many others) great reason for concern.

We have seen in Maine that increasing the tobacco tax can reduce youth smoking rates, which is key because almost all tobacco use starts in adolescence. Raising the tobacco tax is long overdue. Taking this step will help break the cycle of addiction in Maine and protect the health of the future.

I urge you to vote Ought to Pass on the tobacco tax increase included in LD 210 to support Maine kids.