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INCORPORATED IN MAINE

American Academy of Pediatrics

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## Testimony in SUPPORT of LD 754, An Act to Ban the Sale, Use and Possession of Single-use Electronic Cigarettes and to Review Extended Producer Responsibility Options for All Batteries

### Committee on Environment and Natural Resources

May 12, 2025

Senator Tepler, Representative Gramlich, and Esteemed Members of the Environment and Natural Resources Committee,

My name is Madeleine DesFosses, and I am submitting this testimony on behalf of the Maine Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics. We are in support of LD 754, which seeks to prohibit the sale, use, and possession of single-use electronic nicotine delivery systems (ENDS) to protect the health of Maine's environment and citizens.

The Maine AAP is a professional organization of 300 pediatricians and pediatric subspecialists dedicated to protecting the health of Maine children and adolescents. Because of the significant impacts environmental factors have on the mental and physical health of children, we are committed to ensuring that we protect our environment and natural resources to ensure children grow up healthy and are not exposed to harmful toxins.

Single-use or disposable ENDS pose severe environmental hazards, from both production and disposal. For a product designed to be thrown away after a single use, these products are resource intensive, requiring plastics, lithium-ion batteries, and toxic metals. The batteries alone contain a rare, finite resource (lithium), the mining of which is extremely destructive to the environment. The lithium used by the batteries in disposable ENDS sold each year is enough to power [2,600 electrical vehicles](#). However, unlike an electrical vehicle, these products are only meant to last a few days and have no environmental benefits but rather cause harm.

The waste from these products is pervasive and extensive. A [report](#) from the U.S. Public Interest Research Group found that if you lined up all the single-use ENDS sold in a year, they would stretch for over 7,000 miles - enough to span the continental U.S. twice.

Single-use ENDS can't be reused, properly recycled, or legally thrown in the trash. When tossed in the trash or discarded on the sidewalk, the lithium-ion batteries can leak heavy metals and toxic chemicals, and pose fire hazards in landfills and waste facilities. The plastics casings take hundreds of years to break down, and pollute our oceans, waterways, and natural spaces. The chemicals that these products contain, including nicotine, propylene glycol and others can leach into the soil and waterways as well. Even in small concentrations, nicotine is toxic to insects, birds, and other wildlife and aquatic life.

Children may be exposed to waste from ENDS, such as leached chemicals that may contaminate water, soil, or come into contact with them on the playground, in parks or on the street. When these products are incinerated with regular trash, heavy metal and other toxic substances can be exposed into the air, worsening air quality and affecting children with respiratory issues. Over time, these products can break down into microplastic particles that can enter the water system and food chains, eventually entering the human body causing negative health effects.

The impact of these products on the health of our environment and children is significant, and action must be taken to reduce waste and the environmental hazards that these products present.

For these reasons, we urge you to vote "Ought to Pass" on LD 754.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Madeleine DesFosses,  
Advocacy and Public Health Manager, Maine AAP

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