

April 19, 2023

Support of Ending the Sale of Flavored Tobacco

As a 5th grade student at Wells Junior High school and an advocate for the American Heart Association, I am supportive of the *Act to End the Sale of Flavored Tobacco Products*.

Most kids start vaping before they are 20 with flavored tobacco. I think that if the American Heart Association slowly starts going state to state trying to ban flavored tobacco then there'll be a lot less kids smoking at a young age. And then the American Heart Association can start trying to ban all types of smoking. That's why I think that every state should ban flavored tobacco.

The use of tobacco products remains the nation's number one cause of preventable death and in Maine it is no different. Our youth are most at risk because of flavored tobacco. More than 27,000 kids will die prematurely from smoking if we don't act to protect them.

Tobacco companies are targeting youth with flavored tobacco products. Products that come in an array of kid friendly candy and fruit flavors and are sold in colorful packaging that is designed to attract tweens and teens. Tobacco companies use flavor to hook a new generation of kids on its deadly products. Flavors hide the bad taste of tobacco and make it easier for kids to try. Menthol has the additional quality of soothing the irritation of combustible cigarettes, which is why so many young people start smoking using menthol cigarettes.

We must do everything in our power to keep our communities healthy and safe and you have an opportunity for making sure that Maine residents are healthy and safe against the harms from tobacco by voting to eliminate all flavors in all products.

Sincerely,

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