

4/24/2023

To Whom it may concern:

Hi, my name is Michele Gonya, I reside in Winslow, Maine. I am a single Mother, (to three special needs sons ages 20,17& 8). I am here today to testify with The Flavors Hook kids, Maine bill LD 1215.

I personally have never smoked a day in my life. I grew up in a second hand smoke home until I was 10 (My parents quit smoking). I am sure my mom even smoked pot and cigarettes with me in her stomach, I was born in 1978 that was the "normal" back then. As a child I would be sick all the time from the second hand smoke and missed a lot of school due to this. Second Hand smoke gives me Migraine headaches, cough, sneezing and would stink up my hair and clothes. In school there was peer pressure to smoke, I always remained smoke free and was called " a goody two shoe by my peers" I am even now more sensitive to air quality as I get older, I have a nebulizer ,inhalers and CPAP I use daily.

As a Single Mom I constantly talk to my children about smoking, the effects and it Doesn't mean you are " cool" when you smoke. I know kids will be kids and will want to try new things or they will see their friends vaping and smoking flavor cigars or e cigarettes. My 17 year old will even go out of his way and find vapes from his peers and share them all together. This is extremely risky and not safe. Why do we have these items on the market to tempt our current and future generations to purchase these items?

Did you know the vapes on the market leak, and even have been known to explode? The vapes on the markets poison is equivalent to rat poison, and it's being allowed to put this on the market to kill. Why is that? Aren't we here on this planet to save lives and not risk our lives?

Nicotine is harmful and additive, and cause long term harm to brain development as children are growing, also life threatening cancer/illnesses. These cool looking colored , flavored vapes and e-cigarettes are luring our kids/future generations while harming them instead of helping them have their best future possible. As parents we are on this earth to help protect our kids from all events possible, by passing this bill it will help Maine "be the way life should be". Smoke free. Protecting ourselves, our kids and Future generations from Tobacco harm.

Please pass The Flavor hooks kids Maine bill LD 1215, to ban the sale of flavored tobacco products/menthol that are currently targeting children of all ages in Maine.

Thank you so much for your time,

