



American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network  
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<https://www.fightcancer.org/states/maine>

**Testimony of Julia MacDonald, Maine Government Relations Director,  
American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network**

**LD 210 "An Act Making Unified Appropriations and Allocations from the General Fund  
and Other Funds for the Expenditures of State Government and Changing Certain  
Provisions of the Law Necessary to the Proper Operations of State Government for the  
Fiscal Years Ending June 30, 2025, June 30, 2026 and June 30, 2027"**

**Monday, February 24th, 2025**

Senator Rotundo, Representative Gattine, and honorable members of the Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs, my name is Julia MacDonald, and I am the Maine Government Relations Director for the American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network (ACS CAN). ACS CAN is the nonprofit, nonpartisan advocacy affiliate of the American Cancer Society. We advocate for evidence-based public policies to reduce the cancer burden for everyone. As the nation's leading advocate for legislative solutions that are helping to defeat cancer, ACS CAN ensures that cancer patients, survivors, and their families have a voice in public policy matters at all levels of government.

On behalf of ACS CAN, I would like to thank you for this opportunity to submit the following testimony. We are grateful to the Governor for maintaining funding for the Fund for a Healthy Maine (FHM) programs and for this administration's ongoing dedication to prevention and public health. However, we strongly encourage the Legislature not to remove the tobacco prevention and cessation program from the FHM.

The Fund for a Healthy Maine was created as a direct result of the 1998 Tobacco Master Settlement Agreement (MSA), in which major tobacco companies agreed to compensate states for the decades-long public health and financial toll of smoking-related diseases. The settlement was designed to fund programs that reduce tobacco use, prevent chronic diseases, and promote public health. Using these dollars for anything other than their intended purpose—such as shifting tobacco prevention funding out of the FHM—undermines the very reason the settlement exists. Maine has long been a leader in ensuring these funds are used as intended: to prevent tobacco-related illness and reduce the burden of smoking on our healthcare system. Preserving the integrity of the FHM by keeping tobacco prevention funding within it aligns with the original purpose of the MSA and supports a healthier future for Maine residents.

There are several ways to protect the tobacco program. One way is to preserve the FHM in its entirety and instead direct a portion of existing tobacco excise tax revenue into it. This simple, cost-neutral adjustment would eliminate unnecessary risk to the program and align with the purpose of the FHM. Maine has a strong history of using tobacco settlement dollars for youth-focused prevention, and it is essential that we uphold this legacy. Investing in the health of our children and communities is a shared priority, and keeping the Fund for a Healthy Maine intact will ensure its impact for generations to come.

Thank you for your time.