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## Testimony in SUPPORT of LD 166, An Act to Prohibit the Sale of Tobacco Products in Pharmacies and Retail Establishments Containing Pharmacies

### Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services May 13, 2025

Senator Ingwersen, Representative Meyer, and Esteemed Members of the Health and Human Services Committee,

My name is Madeleine DesFosses, and I am submitting this testimony on behalf of the Maine Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics. The Maine AAP is a professional organization of 300 pediatricians and pediatric subspecialists dedicated to protecting the health of Maine children and adolescents. We are in support of LD 166, An Act to Prohibit the Sale of Tobacco Products in Pharmacies and Retail Establishments Containing Pharmacies.

Pharmacies play a crucial role in our healthcare system, serving as a one-stop shop for over the counter medications, prescription medications, immunizations, and hygiene products – and tobacco products. While we've known for decades that nicotine is highly addictive and tobacco products pose serious health risks, we continue to allow them to be sold alongside products that promote health. These products may be as simple as cough syrup or ibuprofen, or they may be lifesaving treatments that are necessary to treat the very conditions that tobacco products cause, or even tobacco cessation products prescribed to help curb nicotine cravings.

The display and sale of tobacco products in pharmacy spaces can also lead to increased youth initiation. In fact, exposure to "tobacco-saturated retail spaces" is associated with higher rates of youth initiation (1). The more frequently youth are exposed to tobacco products, the more likely they are to start using tobacco themselves.

When tobacco products are sold alongside products meant to keep us healthy, we send a message to our youth that tobacco isn't harmful, that using tobacco is as benign as purchasing toilet paper or aspirin.

Tobacco products have no place in pharmacies, or retail spaces that contain pharmacies. We urge the Health and Human Services Committee to pass LD 166, An Act to Prohibit the Sale of Tobacco Products in Pharmacies and Retail Establishments Containing Pharmacies.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Madeleine DesFosses  
Advocacy and Public Health Manager, Maine AAP

## References:

Lindsay Robertson, Rob McGee, Louise Marsh, Janet Hoek, A Systematic Review on the Impact of Point-of-Sale Tobacco Promotion on Smoking, *Nicotine & Tobacco Research*, Volume 17, Issue 1, January 2015, Pages 2–17, <https://doi.org/10.1093/ntr/ntu168>