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Union

I am beyond disappointed to hear this coming up again. I have tried everything, writing representatives, advocacy, sharing the facts around vaping products being safer and the benefits of flavors to help people quit smoking. I started smoking at 13yrs old. I smoked until I was 25. In my final year of smoking cigarettes I was smoking 50+ roll-your-own per day. There was not a moment of the day that went by that I did not have a cigarette in my hand. I felt like I was dying. My insides felt like they were rotting away. I was extremely unhealthy. I tried to quit many times but NO OTHER ALTERNATIVES HELPED. It is ALL thanks to vaping with FLAVORS, that I have been able to quit smoking cigarettes in one day and never looked back. Never even wanted one again. Still don't to this day, almost 9 years cigarette free. ALL thanks to FLAVORED vapor products. I started vaping at a nicotine level of 24-36%. Today I am extremely proud to be down to 1-2% nicotine level in my vape juice. Vape juice that I now have to make myself because of the illegal and unconstitutional actions taken by state and federal representatives and the mail delivery services that are destroying lives by banning the shipment of vapor products to people who need them. It is my right as an adult in the United States of America to use nicotine if I want. And it is better for anyone to use vapor products than to smoke cigarettes. And it is a FACT that vaping is 95% safer than combustible cigarette smoking. Look it up. I am so tired of all this tyrannical stripping of peoples rights in this country. I am so tired of this moral grandstanding from politicians who get on their soapbox and claim to care about people when they themselves receive payouts from big tobacco companies. This is WRONG. I can't even order my nicotine online anymore, I can't get it from the local vape shop, even though I have to verify my identity to a federal registry on any order for vapor products. I prove I am legally allowed to purchase these things every time. But now I can't even do that! Because all these virtue signaling, moral busybodies won't even ship the products that I need and pay them to deliver. Passing another ban is the worst possible idea that you people can do. You will be responsible for creating a whole new black market of unsafe, untested vapor products that will be widely available to minors because *hint hint* criminals don't care about your laws! "Gun control" anyone? They don't care what you ban, they don't care what you regulate and they don't care about keeping children safe. But guess what, we do! We do everything we can to keep vaping products and tobacco products away from minors. We encourage them to not use these things and make the same mistakes that we have made. We are the proof that flavors work. We are the proof that vaping is healthier. I have never felt better. My lungs are completely healed from my many years of smoking. And you know why I started smoking? It's real simple. I started smoking because someone told me "NO, you can't do that". When you tell a kid no, you can't do that. They are going to resent you and go out and do it anyway and get involved in even worse alternatives and darker roads that lead to inconceivable nightmares of which mist of you cannot possibly even fathom. The bubble you live in is painfully evident and your lack of self awareness and disregard for your responsibilities is astounding. I am very disappointed in all of you who support this bill. Shame on you. I hope you are proud of the nightmare that you create by trying to ban everything that you attempt to control. The blood and death and suffering will be on your hands, the black markets that have opened up due to your legislature, the overdoses, the suicides, minors smoking, drinking, using drugs, getting into trouble. It's all on you. You make it possible. With your irresponsible and poorly thought out approach to harm reduction in the United States and here in this great state of Maine. You have created all of this. And you should be ashamed of yourselves for even considering such a gross overreach of power in your desperate attempt to control anything and everything that you don't like. You created the black market of drugs. You created the epidemic of suicides. You cause your children to rebel. And you are about to create a while new black market of unsafe, untested products with this proposed bill. More innocent children will die. More adults will die. More families will suffer. All so you can feel good about yourselves. I hope it's

worth it for you. Disgraceful. I was told to be polite and brief but I have already been brief and I am not being impolite. I am speaking the truth, the objective reality of this situation. And much of the time, the truth hurts, it is uncomfortable and it is in your face. Because it's the truth, it's reality and the reason you don't like it is because you know it's true and you don't want it to be. But for some reason, you continue to make the same mistakes over and over and over. When will you learn that your regulations have been nothing but failure after failure? When will you learn that you have ruined at least 3 generations of young people to date? When will you learn that you are pushing your children away by your constant solutions of control, regulation and taxation. Did raising the tax on vapor products reduce minors vaping? No. But you bragged on and on about how it had bi-partisan support and you were so proud. Well I hope you're proud of the consequences that entertaining such heinous and irrational legislature such as this will have on this state and the economy. You are ruining lives. You have been ruining lives. And by the looks of it, all you will continue to do is ruin lives and cause nothing but misery. I am so tired of this. But I will never stop standing up for what is right. And that means standing up against any of you who would support this bill and saying what needs to be said. Not the sugar coated, diet version of the truth. The hard truth, the uncomfortable truth. And I will continue to do so any opportunity I get. I will help campaign against you, I will vote against you, I will tell people about what you have done and they will vote against you. And people will listen to me. Because they are sick and tired of you too. So enjoy all that blood on your hands, you earned it. Now own it. Take away our rights. May as well stop pretending to care, you don't act like it anyway. Why keep up the facade? I'm just going to stop now because I don't expect any lawmakers or politicians to care. You've already proven to me time and again that you could care less. But you'll always see my name pop up anywhere I get the opportunity to speak out against you doing something wrong. I don't do nearly enough either. Nowhere near enough people do. That's the only way you have been able to get away with this. Because everyone else is out there suffering. While you live in your little dream world of privilege and comfort and security. One day that will change though. One day, these problems of suicide, substance abuse, your kids getting involved in black markets you helped to create. It will finally directly effect you. I hope that when that day comes you will realize the negative effect that legislation like this has on our society. When you say no, when you try to control, when you try to ban and regulate and tax, you open up opportunities for bad people with bad intentions to fill the demand for the object you seek to control. They will do it happily and without remorse, because they don't care about your laws and regulations. They don't care about your hearings and proceedings. Those evil people will sell poison to your children with a smile. And it will be all thanks to you and legislature like this bill. So think on that. Don't focus on how you might be offended. I don't aim to offend. I am genuinely concerned. Sure seems to me that I care a whole lot more than any of the representatives in the house and senate here in Maine. They don't do anything that helps our mental health crisis. Our suicide epidemic. Our addiction crisis. If you were in my position and you got the robotic, emotionless responses that I get from them every time I very politely beg them to do the right thing, you would be frustrated too. All I'm asking is for you to stop and think before you pass radical legislation like this. Before you consider any legislature. Just like my words here, do not react based on your immediate emotional response. Think first. Ask yourself "What are the consequences, what are the potential outcomes of this if it becomes law?" Apologies for my likely lengthy in comparison input into this situation. Apologies for my emotional reaction as these regulations have had a very negative effect on my life and wellbeing. My whole life. I have never experienced one single positive thing from you legislators and lawmakers and politicians. Not one. Not a single one. I apologize if my words seem to offend, that is not my intention. I am just tired of having to do this and having none of you care how it effects the people who need it. You don't appear to care at all about the countless lives that vapor products and flavored products have saved. It seems you refuse to see the good and only seek further control, pushing the people, as well as your own

children away in pursuit of some grand moral pedestal you wish to stand upon and declare "look at me and look at how good and righteous I am. I saved lives by banning flavors!" When all you actually do is ruin lives and create a whole new black market that will do nothing but cause misery and sickness, make these unregulated, untested products more widely available to minors. There will be no one to check their ID. There will be no federal identification process to attain it. Because criminals and evil people don't care about your laws and proposals! They will sell poison to your children with a big smile. And it will be all thanks to legislature like this bill. I sincerely hope you make the right choice. Thank you for your time.