

LD 1550: An Act To End the Sale of Flavored Tobacco Products
Testimony of Sara McConnell, Lubec, Maine
May 7, 2021

Senator Claxton, Representative Meyer, and honorable members of the Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services: my name is Sara McConnell from Lubec, Maine and I am here today to testify in favor of LD 1550, An Act To End the Sale of Flavored Tobacco Products.

Flavors hooked ME! Growing up my parents and grandparents all smoked. During middle school I decided to give it a try. My Mom had regular cigarettes, but I took a liking to my Dads menthols. I continued to smoke for over 16 years. It wasn't until my Dad, at the age of 49, died of lung cancer and after many attempts, that I finally quit.

I also lost my two grandmothers and a grandfather to smoking related illnesses. I am so grateful that I no longer smoke. And I'm so proud of my Mom, who on her birthday June 1st, will be smoke free for 10 years! My brother still smokes, I really worry about my niece and nephew. Flavors hook Maine kids - let's put an end to flavored tobacco!

Thank you for allowing me to share my story, I am happy to answer any questions you may have.