

LD 1550: An Act To End the Sale of Flavored Tobacco Products  
Testimony of Hope Royal, Houlton, Maine  
May 7, 2021

Senator Claxton, Representative Meyer, and honorable members of the Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services: my name is Hope Royal from Houlton, Maine and I am in favor of LD 1550, An Act To End the Sale of Flavored Tobacco Products.

My name is Hope Royal and I am a Junior at Houlton High School. Flavored tobacco products have impacted not only my friendships, but also my community in a negative way. Vaping has ruined many of my friendships. That was all anybody wanted to do and I simply didn't want to be a part of it. I noticed them starting to change. They became less focused on their school work and social lives and started to focus more on vapes and getting money to buy them. Growing up in a small town, everyone has connections. It wouldn't be difficult to buy flavored tobacco products from someone of the legal age. Every bathroom in my school is filled with people gathered around sharing a vape and influencing others to do the same. When I walk out to my car after school, I will see my peers buying and selling vapes and other flavored tobacco products to underclassmen and other students in our school. Banning flavored tobacco products would create a healthier, safer and cleaner school environment and community for younger generations to come.