

LD 1550: An Act To End the Sale of Flavored Tobacco Products
Testimony of Morgan Washburn, Brunswick, Maine
May 7, 2021

Senator Claxton, Representative Meyer, and honorable members of the Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services: my name is Morgan Washburn, I live in Brunswick, and I am here today to testify in favor of LD 1550, An Act To End the Sale of Flavored Tobacco Products. In today's world, it is more important than ever to keep our bodies healthy. But because of flavored tobacco products, kids just like me are compromising themselves.

I started vaping on and off when I was in 8th grade, but it became more severe as I got into high school. In my freshman year, I got pneumonia because I had a compromised immune system from vaping. Vaping caused deep tissue scars inside my lungs to form from the harmful metals in all vapes/e-cigarettes. I was told to believe that it was better for you than smoking was, so it was okay. I was told that it was fun, and I'd make more friends because "everyone" does it. But that wasn't the truth. I made better friends with my hospital bed and inhaler than I did with the people that told me to do it. There was a time when I was handed a tobacco-flavored vape, and it was honestly one of the worst things I've ever tasted. But they make other flavors, flavors that reel you in. Kids are enticed by good flavors and exciting packages, not by tobacco.

By targeting my generation with these flavors, the tobacco industry is creating its next group of nicotine-addicted consumers. I am not willing to sacrifice my health, or anyone else's, to the tobacco industry. By voting 'yes' on LD 1550, you'll prove that you aren't willing to sacrifice this generation either. Thank you for taking the time to read my testimony. I hope you'll take what I have to say into consideration.