



American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network
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<https://www.fightcancer.org/states/maine>

**Testimony of Julia MacDonald, Government Relations Director,
American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network**

**In Opposition to LD 1365, “An Act to Allow Consumption of Adult Use Cannabis in
Locally Approved Hospitality Lounges”**

May 8th, 2025

Senator Hickman, Representative Supica, and members of the Veterans and Legal Affairs Committee. My name is Julia MacDonald, and I serve as the Government Relations Director for the American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network (ACS CAN) here in Maine. ACS CAN is the nonprofit, nonpartisan advocacy affiliate of the American Cancer Society. We advocate for evidence-based public policies that advance cancer prevention, early detection, and access to care—ultimately working to eliminate cancer as a major health problem.

I am here today to testify in strong opposition to LD 1365, “An Act to Allow Consumption of Adult Use Cannabis in Locally Approved Hospitality Lounges.” This proposal threatens to reverse decades of progress Maine has made in protecting residents and workers from the harmful effects of secondhand smoke.

In 2003, Maine enacted strong, comprehensive smoke-free laws that prohibit smoking in public places with very few exceptions. These laws were designed to protect public health and reduce exposure to cancer-causing substances. Allowing cannabis smoking or aerosolization in hospitality lounges would directly undermine those protections.

It is important to understand that marijuana smoke—like tobacco smoke—is a known lung irritant that contains many of the same toxic and cancer-causing substances, including mercury, ammonia, formaldehyde, and lead. It also contains hazardous fine particulate matter that poses serious cardiovascular and respiratory risks to both users and non-users exposed to secondhand smoke.

Title 22, Chapter 262 of Maine law clearly defines “smoking” to include the burning or heating of plant products, including marijuana, for human consumption. The intent of this law was to create smoke-free environments for everyone, especially in public and workplace settings. LD 1365 would carve out a dangerous exception to this standard, putting hospitality workers and patrons at risk and rolling back the public health protections Mainers overwhelmingly support.

While we recognize that cannabis may have therapeutic uses for certain cancer-related symptoms, it’s important to note that none of the FDA-approved cannabinoid-based medications



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require smoking or vaping. In fact, there is no medical reason to expose patients, workers, or the public to secondhand marijuana smoke.

Maine has led the way in creating healthy, smoke-free public spaces. We cannot afford to go backwards. For the sake of public health and the fight against cancer, I urge you to reject LD 1365 and maintain the integrity of our smoke-free laws.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I would be happy to answer any questions you may have.