

MaineHealth

MaineHealth Member Organizations:

Franklin Community Health Network
LincolnHealth
MaineHealth Care At Home
Maine Behavioral Healthcare
Memorial Hospital
Maine Medical Center
NorDx
Pen Bay Medical Center
Southern Maine Health Care
Synernet
Waldo County General Hospital
Western Maine Health

Part of the MaineHealth Family:

MaineHealth Accountable Care Organization

MaineHealth Affiliates:

MaineGeneral Health
Mid Coast-Parkview Health
New England Rehabilitation Hospital of Portland
St. Mary's Health System

Testimony of Sarah Calder, MaineHealth

In Opposition to LD 343, An Act to Promote Equity in Business Opportunity for Tobacco Specialty Stores, and LD 416, An Act to Allow Eating Establishments to Permit Smoking Tobacco in Designated Outdoor Eating Areas

February 12, 2019

Senator Gratwick, Representative Hymanson, and distinguished members of the Health and Human Services Committee, I am Sarah Calder and I'm the Director of Government Relations for MaineHealth. As part of MaineHealth's mission of "Working Together So Maine's Communities are the Healthiest in America," I am here today in opposition to both LD 343 and LD 416 because they run counter to this mission and vision.

LD 343 represents a concept that has been before the Legislature multiple times, in various iterations, since loopholes in Maine's smoking laws were closed – and the concept has continuously met no success. Previous bills have represented regressive efforts to roll back Maine's strong support of tobacco-free environments – taking environments exclusive to the sale of tobacco and expanding the scope of service to include the sale and use of alcohol. LD 416 continues this regression by allowing smoking in outdoor areas of a restaurant. These bills are contrary to overwhelming public opinion that is supportive of tobacco free environments as well as evidence that the prohibition of smoking in bars or restaurants has no demonstrated economic impact to their respective revenue. For example, according to the Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System, 9 out of every ten Mainers agree that people should be protected from secondhand smoke. Further, national studies have consistently demonstrated that smoke-free laws in restaurants and bars have no economic impact on the establishment's revenue pre- and post-implementation of the smoke-free law.¹

Because of the factors noted above, I urge you to vote Ought Not to Pass on these bills. Thank you for your time and consideration and I would be happy to answer any questions.

¹ Loomis BR, Shafer PR, van Hasselt M. The Economic Impact of Smoke-Free Laws in Restaurants and Bars in 9 States. *Prev Chronic Dis* 2013; 10: 120327.