



*The Voice of Public Health in Maine for 30 Years*

**Testimony in Support of LD 1108  
An Act to Protect Children and the Public from Electronic Cigarette Vapor  
Submitted by Tina Pettingill, MPH**

Good afternoon Senator Brakey, Representative Gattine and distinguished members of the Committee on Health and Human Services:

My name is Tina Pettingill and I am the executive director of the Maine Public Health Association. MPHA is an organization that represents over 400 public health professionals across the state who are committed to the health and well-being of all Maine people. We are a science-based association that only weighs in on bills when we have the data or evidence to support our testimony.

LD1108 is an important update to the changing face of nicotine addiction by way of electronic smoking devices (ESDs). The World Health Organization considers the research on ESDs and vapors produced elusive, yet unequivocally state "ESD's use poses serious threats to adolescents and fetuses. In addition, it increases exposure of non-smokers and bystanders to nicotine and a number of toxicants." The US Centers for Disease Control have a similar stance due to the lack of research on long-term effects. And the California Department of Health issued a report in January stating "E-cigarettes contain nicotine and other harmful chemicals, and the nicotine in them is as addictive as the nicotine in cigarettes," said Chapman. "There is a lot of misinformation about e-cigarettes. That is why, as the state's health officer, I am advising Californians to avoid the use of e-cigarettes and keep them away from children of all ages."

What we know is that ESDs do not just emit a harmless water vapor. Secondhand aerosol includes higher ultrafine particles than conventional tobacco cigarette smoke. These ultrafine particles include chemicals that are known carcinogens and can exacerbate respiratory conditions such as asthma. One common chemical used to create vapor in ESDs is propylene glycol. Not only is this ingredient not approved by the FDA for inhalation, but a small amount of propylene oxide, another known carcinogen, is created when heated.

By allowing electronic cigarettes we are creating concern for consumers who might see a person smoking and choose not to patronize an establishment and confusion by employers who are trying to abide by our current smoke-free public places law. We are also exposing bystanders to ESD vapors that can contribute to poor health outcomes. By banning one and allowing another we are adding an extra layer of confusion in enforcing smoke-free policies, as ESDs tend to look very similar to conventional cigarettes. Currently three states restrict e-cigarettes in 100% smoke-free venues, 18 states ban use in other venues, and 354 local legislatures have taken a stance on this important issue.

11 Parkwood Dr., Augusta, ME 04330 207-622-7566, ext. 230 [mainepublichealth.org](http://mainepublichealth.org)

*MPHA 2014/2015*  
**Board of Directors**

*President*  
**Doug Michael, MPH**  
Eastern Maine Healthcare Systems

*Vice President*  
**Anne Connors**  
USM/Muskie School of Public Service

*Treasurer*  
**Judy Johnson, MBA**  
Portland Public Health Department

*Secretary*  
**Bill Flagg**  
Cary Medical Center

*Past President*  
**Angela Westhoff, MA**  
Maine Osteopathic Association

*Executive Director*  
**Tina Pettingill, MPH**  
Maine Public Health Association

*Physician Advisor*  
**Edmund Claxton, MD**

**Terry Baker**  
American Cancer Society

**Rebecca J. Boulos, PhD, MPH**  
University of New England

**Jamie Comstock**  
Bangor Public Health & Community Services

**Cassandra Cote Grantham, MA**  
Maine Health

**Lisa Harvey McPherson, RN, MBA, MPPM**  
Eastern Maine Healthcare Systems

**Julie Mulkern**  
WinterKids

**Kate Perkins, MPA**  
MCD Public Health

**Emily Rines, MPH, CHES**  
United Way of Greater Portland

**Stephen D. Sears, MD, MPH**  
VA Maine Healthcare System

**Judy Tupper, DHed, CHES, CPPS**  
Muskie School of Public Service

**Lori Wolanski, MPH**  
Maine CDC

The increased use of electronic cigarette usage by Maine teens increases the need for this bill. At the national level we have seen an increase from 3.3 to 6.8 percent of teens and adolescents trying ESDs between 2011 and 2012. Increasing numbers of teens and young adults have tried or started using ESDs due to their variety of flavors and ability to be used in places where cigarettes cannot be used.

Distinguished members of the Committee, I urge you to send a strong message to the legislature and to the public by providing a unanimous “ought to pass” committee report. Let’s keep up with tobacco company tactics and ensure that smoke-free is actually smoke-free. Thank you for your time.



In 2013, more than **a quarter million** middle and high school students **never** smoked regular cigarettes but **had** used e-cigarettes...

**3 times**  
**as many as 2011!**

