

MaineHealth

MaineHealth Local Health Systems

Franklin Community
Health Network
LincolnHealth
MaineHealth Care At Home
Maine Behavioral Healthcare
Memorial Hospital
Maine Medical Center
Mid Coast-Parkview Health
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
New England Rehabilitation
Hospital of Portland
St. Mary's Health System

Testimony of Sarah Calder, MaineHealth in Support of LD 269, “An Act to Prohibit Smoking in Bus Shelters” Thursday, March 4, 2021

Senator Claxton, Representative Meyer and distinguished members of the Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services, I am Sarah Calder, Director of Government Affairs at MaineHealth, and I am here to testify in support of LD 269, “An Act to Prohibit Smoking in Bus Shelters.”

MaineHealth is Maine’s largest integrated non-profit health care system that provides a full continuum of health care services to the residents of eleven counties in Maine and one in New Hampshire. Every day, MaineHealth’s over 23,000 employees are committed to fulfilling our vision of “working together so our communities are the healthiest in America.”

MaineHealth has long supported strong tobacco prevention and treatment programs for our patients, employees and communities – we know that tobacco use is one of the most preventable health problem facing our state and nation. In 2001, we established the Maine Center for Tobacco Independence (CTI). In partnership with the Maine Centers for Disease Prevention and Control, MaineHealth implements the Maine QuitLink, training for health care providers and other professionals throughout the state, and technical assistance regarding tobacco-free policies.

Additionally, in 2016, MaineHealth partnered with the Maine CDC to implement and lead Domain 2: Tobacco Use and Exposure Prevention. As part of Maine Prevention Services, the MaineHealth Center for Tobacco Independence works with 16 community organizations to create tobacco and smoke-free environments across Maine, and help Maine youth and young adults be tobacco-free.

With that said, MaineHealth strongly supports public policies that limit the public’s exposure to unwanted secondhand smoke. And we’re not alone. According to the Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System, 9 out of every ten Mainers agree that people should be protected from secondhand smoke. It is for that reason that we support the legislation before you today that clarifies that bus shelters are considered enclosed public spaces where smoking is prohibited.

Thank you and I would be happy to answer any questions you may have.