

Good for Maine people and Maine's economy: Tobacco prevention policies save lives *and* money.

Good health makes Maine a place where businesses want to be, where young people want to stay, and where communities grow and thrive. It means children are ready to learn, workers are more productive, older adults can stay in their homes, employers spend less on insurance coverage, and our communities can be healthy, hopeful, and thriving.



Tobacco prevention and treatment policies improve businesses' bottom line.

The costs of tobacco use are spread across the health system, leading to higher insurance premiums for individuals and employers, higher costs of doing business, and higher costs of care for everyone.

According to the U.S. CDC, smoking costs an estimated \$193 billion in annual, health-related economic losses for U.S. employers: \$96 billion in direct medical costs + \$96.8 billion in lost productivity.¹ Additional costs related to employee smoking include property damage & depreciation, increased maintenance & cleaning costs, increased insurance costs, and increased lost earnings. Ultimately, smokers cost companies about \$7,874 more per year than non-smokers.²

Maine needs a comprehensive approach to tobacco prevention and control.

We need an all-hands-on-deck approach to strengthen Maine's economy and ensure our businesses thrive. A comprehensive approach to tobacco prevention includes ending the sale of flavored tobacco products, investing in prevention, and raising the price of all tobacco products. Together, these policies reduce the attractiveness, appeal, affordability, and availability of tobacco products.

Maine's employers can't afford for us to wait.

Act today to ensure Maine's next generation grows up tobacco-free.

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How high is the cost of tobacco for a typical Maine company?²

The Dirigo Company has 25 employees, 20% of whom smoke.

25 employees
× 20% smokers
× \$7,874 in extra costs

= \$39,370 in lost productivity and direct medical cost annually.
+ \$4,350 in medical expenses
+ \$1,127 in lost productivity
+ \$2,013 in Workers Compensation

\$46,860 Total