

Julie Morris

From: George Angus <gangus247@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, March 22, 2014 5:52 PM
To: Julie Morris
Cc: Rep. Pete Higgins; Rep. Wes Keller; Rep. Benjamin Nageak; Rep. Lance Pruitt
Subject: HB360

Dear Committee Members:

I am writing to you today to encourage you to NOT support HB 360.

I am a resident of Alaska, and while I support banning sales of e-cigarettes to minors, I OPPOSE including smoke-free e-cigarette use within the definition of smoking.

To that end, I was a smoker for many years and last year I chose to take control of my life and my health by switching to a more health conscious alternative that is allowing me to gradually curb and ultimately eliminate my nicotine addiction in a way that causes virtually no impact to anyone around me.

Please consider:

- Smoking bans are supposedly enacted to protect the public from the harm of secondhand smoke, but e-cigarettes have not been shown to cause harm to bystanders. In fact, all evidence to date shows that the low health risks associated with e-cigarettes are comparable to other smokeless nicotine products.
- The low risks of e-cigarettes is supported by research done by Dr. Siegel of Boston University, Dr. Eissenberg of Virginia Commonwealth, Dr Maciej L Goniewicz of the Roswell Park Cancer Institute, Dr. Laugesen of Health New Zealand, Dr. Igor Burstyn of Drexel University, and by the fact that the FDA testing, in spite of its press statement, failed to find harmful levels of carcinogens or toxic levels of any chemical in the vapor.
- A [comprehensive review](#) conducted by Dr. Igor Burstyn of Drexel University School of Public Health based on over 9,000 observations of e-cigarette liquid and vapor found "no apparent concern" for bystanders exposed to e-cigarette vapor, even under "worst case" assumptions about exposure.
- Electronic cigarette use is easy to distinguish from actual smoking. Although some e-cigarettes resemble real cigarettes, many do not. It is easy to tell when someone lights a cigarette from the smell of smoke. E-cigarette vapor is practically odorless, and generally any detectable odor is not unpleasant and smells nothing like smoke. Additionally, e-cigarette users can decide whether to release any vapor ("discreet vaping"). With so little evidence of use, enforcing use bans on electronic cigarettes would be nearly impossible.
- The ability to use electronic cigarettes in public spaces will actually improve public health by inspiring other smokers to switch. Surveys of thousands of users indicate that the majority of those who switch

completely replace tobacco cigarettes with the electronic cigarettes, reducing their health risks by an estimated 99%.

- By switching to a smokeless product, I have greatly reduced my health risks.

Thank you for your time and consideration

George Angus

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