

Hello, my name is Jacob Hanson. I am a Support Center Specialist at MTA Solutions. I have been addicted to cigarettes since the age of 14. I have felt, first hand, the negative effects that smoking can cause to your body. In an attempt to loosen the hold cigarettes had on my life, I had tried numerous cessation products including nicotine gum, patches, as well as countless attempts at quitting "cold turkey". Each attempt resulted in failure and I quickly went back to smoking a pack of cigarettes each day. It wasn't until I started using e-cigarettes, in 2011, that I was able to finally break free from my addiction to cigarettes. Since I started "vaping" I haven't needed nor wanted a cigarette. I have also started to see many positive changes in regards to my own health. Within a few months I was able breathe much better, I was coughing up less mucus and was able to complete physically demanding tasks without becoming winded. I have also noticed that I get sick less often than when I was smoking. I no longer get as many colds and have not gotten the flu since I made the switch. After 3 years of continuous e-cigarette use, I feel amazing and am 100% cigarette free. I have also noticed a lot of other benefits since I made the switch. Myself, my car, nor my house smell like an ash-tray. My teeth are no longer getting stained by the tar that was found in cigarettes. My fingernails and eyes are a much healthier looking color and are no longer stained with a yellow tinge. I personally recommend e-cigarettes to anyone looking for a healthier alternative to smoking and am a firm believer that they can change the lives of anyone who is addicted to cigarettes.

If this bill were to pass, it would reduce the ability of local businesses to provide a much needed service to the Alaskan community. Without being able to use e-cigarettes in public places, local e-cigarette stores would no longer be allowed to let consumers test the product to see if it is the right one for them. Consumers would not be allowed to test different devices, or juices, which can lead to unhappy customers. It is unfair and unnecessary for e-cigarettes to be included under this bill. Please amend this bill to remove e-cigarettes from the ban.

It has been said many times that there isn't enough information regarding the health effects of e-cigarettes and that they may subject the users to negative health effects, this is incorrect. There have been a plethora of recent studies proving that e-cigarettes pose little to no health risk to the users, or to non-users who are nearby.

I have included a few RECENT studies that are worth reading. (Summary followed by source).

This study found e-cigarette users were more likely still to be abstinent than either those who used NRT (Nicotine Replacement Therapies) bought over-the-counter or used no aid at all.

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<http://nicotinepolicy.net/commentary/86-g-krol/861-new-research-shows-electronic-cigarettes-better-for-quitting-than-no-aid-over-the-counter-nrt-worse-than-no-aid>

"According to the American Council On Science And Health, the relative risk of mortality from lifetime use of various tobacco and nicotine products is comparatively low. "Electronic cigarette vapor appears chemically incapable of causing cancer as cigarette smoke has done." The report, Nicotine And Health, was published in January 2014."

<http://acsh.org/2014/01/effects-nicotine-human-health/>

"A study that reviewed available data on chemistry of ecig aerosols and eliquids found no evidence to suggest vaping produces inhalable exposures to contaminants that justify concerns relating to the health and safety of workplaces. Published January 2014."

<http://www.biomedcentral.com/content/pdf/1471-2458-14-18.pdf>

"A new study (Published in Oxford Journal, December 2013) shows while e-cigarettes are a source of second-hand exposure to nicotine; it's far, far less than that associated with second hand cigarette smoke. Additionally, e-cigarette second-hand vapor did not contain combustion related toxicants tested for. Lead author was Maciej Goniewicz from the Roswell Park Cancer Institute in Buffalo, N.Y."

<http://ntr.oxfordjournals.org/content/early/2013/12/10/ntr.ntt203.short?rss=1>