

Public Testimony on HB 40- Opposition

*Index of Testifiers:*

1. Sheb Garfield
2. Jason R Jones- Anchorage
3. Jeremy Jenkins- Anchorage
4. Justin Knight- Mat-Su LIO
5. Matthew McMIndes- Mat-Su LIO
6. Angela Carroll- Mat-Su LIO
7. Benjamin Nguyen- Anchorage

Thank you for taking the time to hear what i have to say

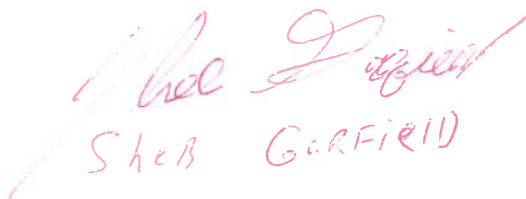
in Sen. Herrons sponsor statement he states that he felt the need for this bill because of the Alaska Department of Health & Social Services statement on Electronic Cigarettes in may of 2014, most importantly this part "Secondhand e-cigarette aerosol ... contains nicotine, ultrafine particles and low levels of toxins that are known to cause cancer. The FDA's initial investigation into the content of e-cigarettes found the aerosol potentially hazardous to the public's health due to tobacco-specific nitrosamines and other volatile organic compounds" lets take that statement and break down their concerns.

secondhand nicotine: In the 2012 clearstream study they found No detectable levels of toluene, xylene, Carbon monoxide, Nitrogen Oxides, nicotine, or acrolein.in passive vaping.  
a new 2014 article by Dr. Farsalino looks at a nov. 2014 study by Spains Tobacco Control Unit, which did find some nicotine exposure with passive vaping over time, about 0.025mg a day. which is slightly more nicotine than what the average hothouse tomato contains. The European Food Safety Authority says to have any harmful effects you need to ingest 0.008mg per KG of bodyweight. and by harmful effects they mean your heart rate increases slightly, the average 180lb man would have ingest 0.64mg passively for it to have even the littlest effect on them.

Ultrafine particles: this is vague, and seems to be added because its a scary buzz word.  
ultrafine particles is a term of measurement of size, anything less than 100 nanometers in diameter. silt blowing in the valley can be considered to exposure to ultrafine particles, as can the pith of orange as it tears when you peel an orange, ocean spray from crashing waves, even printing this document has possible exposure to ultrafine particles.

low levels of toxins that are known to cause cancer, yes the levels are so low that they aren't even a risk as noted in the 2012 study in inhaled toxicology, and well below what the FDA considers a risk, you are more at risk breathing in the air as you walk the coastal trail, or are outside in fairbanks during the winter.

i have submitted this as a written testimony as well with the peer reviewed studies included please look at them and don't make those of us who have quit smoking or are trying to quit smoking go outside and be exposed to the second hand smoke we fought so damn hard to get away from.



Sher Garfield

The studies referenced in Mr. Garfield's letter can be found at

[http://clearstream.flavourart.it/site/wp-content/uploads/2012/09/CSA\\_ItaEng.pdf](http://clearstream.flavourart.it/site/wp-content/uploads/2012/09/CSA_ItaEng.pdf) or at  
<http://www.ecigarette-research.com/web/index.php/2013-04-07-09-50-07/2014/184-passive-vape>  
<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/23033998>



# ANCHORAGE LEGISLATIVE INFORMATION OFFICE

Email: Anchorage.lio@akleg.gov 907-269-0111/ phone, 907-269-0229/fax

## WRITTEN TESTIMONY

NAME: Jason R Jones

REPRESENTING: self

BILL#/ SUBJECT: HB40  
COMMITTEE &

HEARING DATE: 3-10-15

My name is Jason Jones. I am opposed to HB40 because ~~that~~<sup>it</sup> includes smoke-free personal vaporizers.

I am a former smoker of 18 years. I've tried quitting numerous times and failed. Two years ago I tried using a vaporizer and haven't picked up a cigarette since. This was a turning point in my life and families. My lung capacity returned, along with my sense of smell, taste, and my overall health improved dramatically.

Vaporizers, estimated to be 99% safer than cigarettes, and according to Dr. Igor Burstyn of the Drexel University of Public Health, pose "No apparent concern to bystanders exposed to vapor."

I, now manage a Vape Shop in Anchorage because I wanted to help people switch to a much safer alternative to smoking.

2

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## WRITTEN TESTIMONY

NAME: Jason Jones

REPRESENTING: \_\_\_\_\_

BILL#/ SUBJECT: \_\_\_\_\_  
COMMITTEE &

HEARING DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

The bill, as it is written now, would eliminate vaping in Vape Shops, which I know is essential to help people find and try the products that will help ~~people~~ them kick smoking for good.

I believe there will be negative consequences if this bill is passed, resulting in lower number of smokers turning to smoke-free alternatives.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Jason Jones  
Anchorage, AK

To whom it may concern,

My Name is Jeremy Jenkins and I'm in opposition to HB40. The use of electronic Cigarettes has allowed me to stop smoking after 20 years of smoking. I've tried quitting cold turkey, I've used the "FDA" approved Patches with no success and even the foul testing gums that I couldn't even stomach.

Electronic cigarettes is the only thing that has worked for me.

Numerous studies have been done and despite what the supporting documents for HB40 say, most of the studies provide positive conclusions to Electronic cigarette use.

Professor Igor Burstyn of Drexel University School of Public Health Studied e-liquids to determine if the chemicals in e-liquids could be dangerous. His conclusions say that there should be no concern for the passive ingestion of second hand vapor (or aerosol if you prefer). Many other studies have been done by some very reputable DRs. Scientist and chemists alike.

It seems that the only doctors, scientists Public and government agencies etc. that provide data to the negative effects of electronic cigarettes are the ones that have something to be gained from their regulation. Or getting them banned.

To use claims of harmful chemical compounds such as formaldehyde as a reason for this bill is poor at best. The Portland State chemistry professor, David Peyton that found formaldehyde in e-cigarette vapor had only tested one e-liquid from one manufacture at an unrealistic temperature setting. Dr. Konstantinos Farsalinos has already dismissed that formaldehyde study.

Even the supporting letter for this bill from The executive director of the American Lung Association in Alaska Marge Stoneking didn't provide any supporting documentation and just made empty claims.

No electronic cigarette user that I know would disrespect those around them if asked to not use it near them.

I could say much more but am unfairly only allowed two minutes for my time to oppose this bill unlike those that support it. So I will conclude again by saying I'm in opposition to HB40.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of a series of loops and a long horizontal stroke, positioned at the bottom of the page.



## HB 40 Testimony

My name is Justin Knight, I am 23 years old and I am 100% AGAINST House Bill Number 40. I am also a recovering drug addict who has tried very hard to cut out ALL toxic and harmful chemicals from my body. The last and hardest thing to kick was tobacco. I wouldn't have been able to stop smoking if I hadn't found vaping. It is not the same as smoking a cigarette and shouldn't be group in the same category. Vaping is more of a harm reduction product like nicotine patches and gum. Most smokers have tried both of those as well as pharmaceutical medications with little to no results. For the majority of us vaping is the only thing that has worked. When it is considered the same as smoking cigarettes it still gives people an unfair stigma and we shouldn't have to feel that way for switching to a much healthier alternative. Vaping is better for the individual, the people around us and the environment we live in giving off little to no harmful byproducts. Drug addiction is at an all time high with people dying left and right. Coming from someone who has been on that side of the street and lived with the results of it. Tax payer money and government time would be much better spent trying to solve more important issues that are killing people on a daily basis, one of which was my girlfriend back in January. She was 20 years old and died of a drug overdose. Lets stick to fixing REAL issues and let harm reduction users do their thing and shed the unnecessary stigmas. We've made a healthier choice with vaping compared to smoking Big Tobaccos Cancer Sticks that are full of THOUSANDS of toxic chemicals and we should not carry the disgusting stigma of being called a smoker. Vaping and smoking are not the same thing whatsoever.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

## LIO Mat-Su

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**From:** Matt McMindes <mattmcmindes@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 12, 2015 10:48 AM  
**To:** LIO Mat-Su  
**Subject:** HB40 public testimony for Matthew McMindes

I am an ex-smoker. I started smoking in 8th grade, at age 13.

Smoking has caused me health problems, relationship problems, problems at work, hurt my self esteem and was a financial drain. I tried quitting several times in my life, always with little success. A friend recommended personal vaporizers, so I did some research & decided to try it. I haven't had a single cigarette since. My story is not unique, I hear it over & over.

Discouraging smoking and limiting access to tobacco products is an important and honorable goal. Tobacco products are a drain on personal finances and the public health systems. Tobacco deserves to be stopped. HOWEVER... Including personal vaporizers on this anti-smoking legislation is wrong and intellectually dishonest. Vaping is not smoking. The benefits and concerns are completely different. If you feel vaping should be regulated, regulate it. Make sure the equipment is safe and the liquids are high quality. Make sure it's not being sold to minors. But don't equate vaping with smoking. Vaping is a powerful weapon in the effort to stop the ravages of smoking and should be embraced as such rather than maligned by misinformation and mischaracterization.

Thank You,  
Matthew McMindes

Most vapers spent years trying to break the smoking habit. We tried the fda approved methods. Chantix, Well Butrin, Patches, Gums and Lozenges. All of which fail miserably.

Finally, we have a product that actually works. It satisfies the hand to mouth habit as well as putting the vaper in control of how much nicotine they need. We have taken back control of our addiction.

Studies, TRUE studies that are peer reviewed without any spins have shown that there is NO harmful byproducts to second hand vapor. That bystanders are ~~safe~~ <sup>as they are</sup> standing beside someone who vapes ~~than~~ <sup>fun</sup> standing beside a city bus or living in a big city. And there are several studies that shows this fact.

All of the people who vape are dumbfounded by the fact that "the powers that be" are not applauding electronic cigarettes. Instead they are imposing bans and classifying them as smoking. All vapers are proud to stand up and say, "I am not a smoker". If vaping is classified as smoking, we would like to know why? Unless, of course, a safer alternative to smoking is a threat to some groups who actually have something to gain by classifying it as smoking. Maybe a monetary reason. If that is the case, then I encourage you to not allow money to dictate your morals and standards. Please, do not classify the use of electronic cigarettes as smoking. You are demonizing those that



have chosen a healthier alternative and taken back control of our addiction.

My name is Angela Carroll and I smoked for 34 years. I have been a non smoker for 3 years. If you are interested in my health benefits, feel free to call me at 907-746-0825

hello i want to say thank you chairman and the members of this committee for giving me a chance to express my concern with the house bill 40

my name is benjamin nguyen i was an avid smoker since the age of 18. i am smoke free now for over two years thanks to my electronic vaporizer.

i feel that this bill will send out the a misconception about electronic cigarettes. there are way too many benefits that outweigh the cause for alarm. From reducing medical cost related to traditional cigarettes, to strengthening our low income families, with that, keeps the money circulating. Because they now have extra money to spend at local family own establishment. Just because a few rotten apples fell far from the tree, does not mean the tree itself cannot sustain life. when i say that, i mean the vaping community as a whole. sitting through these hearing i see that the biggest concern, is exposure to bystander. but a few study have been done and i will submit those documents at the end of this hearing. in these studies it shows that exposure is on the same level as ambient air. I feel that the Vaping community can govern itself. We have always spread the message in short, Vape with Consideration. To be aware of our surrounding.

Passing this bill as is, will cause a domino effect. From taxation, from insurance company to its customer paying extra fees due to this definition and using it as leverage to force their customer into a corner. worst case scenario denying them coverage.

This industry was developed to help people break away from traditional cigarettes. to a safer alternative nicotine delivery system. We as a community do not wish to be to group together with other products like tobacco and marijuana. If this bill is intended for marijuana then it should be just that.

Passing this bill will also hurt business owners like myself, who have invested our life savings into this industries. To share our success of quitting traditional cigarettes with others. A social outlet with a positive surrounding. Where friends and families gather to unwind from a long day. Building and sustaining their inner morals for the days and weeks ahead. i even have a customer now a good friend that told me he have saved tons of money from drinking because he now has alternative place to hang out at.

Please take this all into consideration and thank you for giving me a chance to express my concern.

Benjamin Nguyen

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of a stylized 'B' followed by a long, sweeping horizontal line that curves upwards at the end.

*The article and study referenced in Mr. Nguyen can be found at the following links:*

Article: Study Confirms The E-Cigarettes Generate Virtually No Toxins:

<http://reason.com/blog/2015/03/04/study-confirms-that-e-cigarettes-generat>

Comparison of select analytes in aerosol from e-cigarettes with smoke from conventional cigarettes and with ambient air

<http://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0273230014002505>

hello and thank you for having me here today  
my name is benjamin nguyen i was an avid smoker of traditional cigarettes for several years of my life.  
i am smoke free for over two years now thanks for electronic vaporizer.

I oppose the House Bill 40 for several reasons.

The ingredients in ejuce are all deem safe by the FDA as "generally recognized as safe" Propylene Glycol of which is found to be use by hospital in their air filtration system documents that i will submit at the end of this hearing.

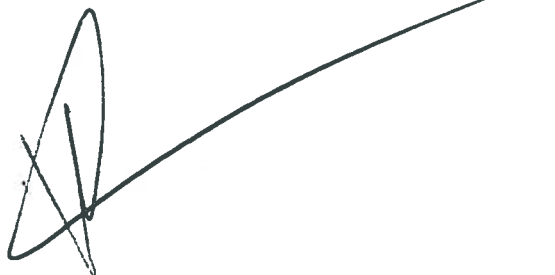
second this is an alternative nicotine delivery system,  
Lets say for example asthma inhaler which has propylene glycol were to have nicotine in it also to be use as an alternative nicotine delivery system which does give off a mist of vapor when exhale quickly.  
would you then include inhalers as part of this bill and the question also goes  
what if the ejuce contains no nicotine, which some ejuce does not.  
for those that simply vapes for the enjoyment of flavors and the fixation of muscle memories of ex smokers that we would like to call hand to mouth movement.

you see this bill is a rush job.  
the definition is too broad, and too early  
if this bill is intended for marijuana then it should be intended just for that.

but to include electronic vaporizers that is intended to help people quit smoking as alternative nicotine delivery system, will hurt business owner like myself that have invested life saving to this industries. passing this bill will cause a domino effect, from taxation to banning indoor vaping in businesses that is intended for it.

There is much benefits that out weights the scare in the public. From reducing medical cost associated with traditional cigarettes. To strengthening low income families that would spend \$200 per person a week on traditional cigarettes to \$30 a week on ejuce. money save is then spent on local business like family restaurant and other establishment. Our society is only strong as its people, we depend on.

please take all this into consideration and thank you for giving me a chance to speak here today

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a stylized, overlapping loop and a long, sweeping horizontal stroke extending to the right.