

KENAI LEGISLATIVE INFORMATION OFFICE

Email: Kenai_LIO@akleg.gov

Phone: 907-283-2030 / Fax: 907-283-3075

WRITTEN TESTIMONY

NAME: Rachael Todd
REPRESENTING: Teens Against Tobacco Use / Soldotna High School
BILL # or SUBJECT: Senate Bill #1
COMMITTEE: Finance DATE: 3/14/16

Hello, my name is Rachael Todd and I am a member of Soldotna High School and have been active in the Teens Against Tobacco Use for the last 5 years. As a member,

I help to provide awareness to people of all ages on the dangers of tobacco use as well as advocate for the right to breathe smoke-free air. This right is asserted by article 3 of the universal declaration of human rights, stating "Everyone has the right to life, liberty, and security of person." Senate Bill 1 also promotes Article 23, which states that "Everyone has the right to work, to free choice of employment, to just and favorable conditions of work...." I feel that Senate Bill 1 is not just beneficial to workers, but to the smokers themselves. ~~Allowing the use of tobacco products within public places in no way encourages~~ The restriction of tobacco products helps to encourage users to quit, or at least limit their use in order to gain employment or entrance to these public locations. As a teenager who will soon enter the workplace, I want to be guaranteed a safe place of employment. As an individual who plans to work in healthcare, I would also like to see a reduction in

the ~~ex~~ diagnosis of medical conditions with tobacco as a primary cause and I believe that Senate Bill 1 is the beginning of a healthier era for all.

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WRITTEN TESTIMONY

NAME:

Pamela Howard

REPRESENTING:

Self / KPBSD School Nurse 30 yrs

BILL # or SUBJECT:

SB1

COMMITTEE:

Finance

DATE:

3/14/16

Hi I am here to support SB1. I would like to see Alaska join many other states and countries in protecting their workers from second hand smoke. It's too late for me. Even though I never smoked, I worked around secondhand smoke and got asthma and vocal cord dysfunction. Second hand smoke contains 50 cancer causing chemicals and nation wide is responsible for 53,000 deaths annually. Studies of companies found that employees who smoke have almost double hospital admissions, insurance payments, and work loss. Working in an environment where you breathe secondhand smoke causes similar consequences. Most of all I would like you to do something that no one did for me, protect workers, particularly our children as they join the workforce, from the dangers of breathing secondhand smoke. It is easy for smokers and vapers to go outside so we could have smokefree indoor air to breathe.

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WRITTEN TESTIMONY

NAME:

Jenny Olendorf

REPRESENTING:

Self

BILL # or SUBJECT:

SB 1

COMMITTEE:

Senate Finance

DATE: 3/14/16

Good morning. I am Jenny Olendorf and I live and work in Soldotna. I Thank ^{you} Senator Mische for sponsoring SB1 and I ask that you ^{all} ^{to} pass this bill through Senate Finance, signing this bill into law will protect all Alaska workers from exposure to secondhand smoke and secondhand emissions from e-cigarettes. For years, I worked in an office in a mall where cigarette smoke from the adjoining business seeped in thru walls, vents and outlets. We begged the business next door to have their employees and customers smoke outside, away from air intake doorways but they would not do it. After 7 years, we gave up and rented smoke free office space across town. Employers + building owners DONOT have the right to expose their employees or customers to toxic chemicals of any kind. Secondhand smoke is no different than any other workplace hazard that laws protect against. we protect restaurant patrons from food borne illness by passing cleanliness laws. When we learned about the dangers of exposure to asbestos, we mandated that buildings be renovated to protect those who work within those walls. PLEASE, in the name of public health, pass SB1. Thank you.

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WRITTEN TESTIMONY

NAME:	<u>Pat Porter</u>	
REPRESENTING:	<u>Self / Kenai City Mayor</u>	
BILL # or SUBJECT:	<u>SB 1</u>	
COMMITTEE:	<u>Senate Finance</u>	DATE: <u>3-14-15</u>

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony today.

My goal is to have all the State of Alaska legislators join together to protect the rights of ALL ALASKANS to work in environments that are smoke free.

The impact of inhaling second-hand smoke is well-documented.

Why would employers not offer the safety net of a smoke free workplace to their employees?

Is their reason personal profit or do they just need to all be under the same rules?

Employees across Alaska need you to offer this protection. Please vote to support SB 1.

I wish this protection would have been available throughout my life.

Now, the dangers are known!

Thank you,

Mayor Pat Porter

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WRITTEN TESTIMONY

NAME:

Zachary Stockton

REPRESENTING:

Teens against Tobacco use

BILL # or SUBJECT:

SB1

COMMITTEE:

Senate Finance

DATE: 3/14/16

Good Morning

~~My~~ my name is Zachary Stockton I go to Kenai Central High School, I have taken time to come voice my opinion because I believe this is an important topic, growing up in this time frame I have gotten to see the effects of second-hand smoke, I feel that my and future generations should not have to be concerned about potential health risks resulting from second hand smoke in the workplace, while I understand this could mean less revenue in certain businesses I think that we should look at the bigger picture and see that second hand smoke has been proven to cause illnesses such as ~~lung~~^{heart} disease and ~~lung~~^{lung} cancer, I have grown up in a tobacco free school system and will be going into a tobacco free college as well, I do not feel this should change just because of where I would like to work, I know it would not solve the issue of second-hand smoke in the workplace plays a big part. Thank you for your time and the opportunity to speak to you

SB1 / HB 328

March 14, 2016

Attention: Senate Finance Committee – Alaska Legislature

House Health & Social Services Committee

Thank you for the providing a public hearing opportunity for constituent input to your deliberations on SB-1. I would have given testimony at the Fairbanks LIO this morning, but previous commitments did not allow for my participation.

I have long been in favor of smoke free environments and the health issues that are abated by this change in practice, so fifteen years ago when my husband and I first began our business – a coffee house in Fairbanks – we determined that the business would be smoke-free.

A significant factor in my strong support of this bill is that my mother, diagnosed with Emphysema, never smoked; but did work in smoke-filled restaurants for most of her life. I, too, never smoked; but during earlier times in my performance work, I spent way too many hours in smoke-filled rooms, breathing more deeply than perhaps anyone else in the room, as I sang for their entertainment. While I don't have the severe condition that my mother does, I do have issues of allergic and problematic breathing responses to smoke filled rooms.

It's been mentioned that people can make the choice if they want to work in such conditions. True enough and I made the decision to create my own smoke-free workplace, where my band SAND CASTLE performs every Friday and Saturday evening. However, this is not a realistic option for most musicians – particularly young hopeful musicians – and they should not have to put their health in jeopardy in order to work.

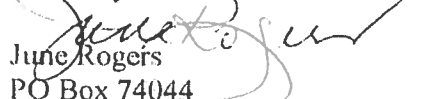
In talking with club owners who have converted to smoke-free venues, I am not surprised when they tell me that their revenue increased substantially.

Only recently did I learn of the properties of E-cigarettes and, based on what I learned, I firmly agree with including them as an item that doesn't deserve acceptance in a smoke-free venue.

As an Alaskan leader, you are called upon to decide on a broad spectrum of issues that relate to the well-being of our communities. Please give your utmost consideration to this bill. It will provide for a more productive and healthful workplace and, not surprisingly, will also benefit in less health costs for our state.

Thank you for your consideration,

Sincerely,


June Rogers
PO Box 74044
Fairbanks, Alaska 99707

sandcastle@mosquitonet.com

Phone: 907-451-0122