

Form emails in opposition to HB 40

Included emails from:

Andrew Pratt – Anchorage

Roxana Concepcion – North Pole

Sandra Cornelius – Fairbanks

Steven Mapes – Kenai

Jason Gasses – Fairbanks

Tyler Wood – North Pole

David Sauter – Fair banks

Benjamin Nguyen – Eagle River

Barbara Jones – JBER

Jamie Chilton – Kenai

James Manakis – Anchorage

Shauna Tieszen – Anchorage

Jason Stenson – Anchorage

Dear Paul Seaton,

I am writing to express my deep concern and opposition regarding HB 40 and SB 1 which would include the use of smoke-free vapor products (e-cigarettes) in Alaska's smoking law.

Smoking laws are ostensibly enacted to protect the public from the harm of secondhand smoke, but smoke-free 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. A comprehensive review conducted by Dr. Igor Burstyn of Drexel University School of Public Health (and published in a peer-reviewed journal earlier this year - <http://www.biomedcentral.com/1471-2458/14/18/abstract>) examined over 9,000 observations of e-cigarette liquid and vapor and found "no apparent concern" for bystanders exposed to e-cigarette vapor, even under "worst case" assumptions about exposure.

Lawmakers must beware of unintended consequences from well-intentioned laws. There is clear evidence of a phenomenon called "accidental quitting," wherein many of the smokers who initially choose e-cigarettes to use just where smoking is prohibited go on to quit smoking conventional cigarettes completely. Prohibiting the use of e-cigarettes in public spaces completely eliminates that incentive to even try e-cigarettes. Unfortunately, the health risks of every one smoker who doesn't quit because e-cigarette use is prohibited (and the risks to the children and others who live with them) cumulatively outweigh any good done by eliminating the miniscule exposures to even hundreds of bystanders in public spaces.

Clearly, the benefits of allowing smokers to use e-cigarettes in public--and thereby increasing the likelihood of "accidental quitting" and reducing the known, extremely high health risks of smoking--outweigh the very low risks of insignificant exposures to bystanders. So, not only is there no genuine public health reason to prohibit e-cigarette use in public spaces, but, in fact, allowing e-cigarettes to be used in public spaces will actually improve public health by inspiring other smokers to switch and reduce their health risks by an estimated 99%. Moreover, private businesses in Alaska are already setting their own policies, and they should retain the right to allow or disallow usage since there is no proven health threat to bystanders.

While I understand some have expressed a fear about these products acting as a "gateway" to traditional cigarettes for youth, there is no evidence to suggest this is really happening, and research actually shows it is unlikely to happen to any substantial extent. Teen smoking rates are at their lowest point since smoking became popular and continue to drop, but there are adults who will continue to smoke until they die unless we provide attractive alternatives.

I urge you to oppose these bills and any legislation that would limit where smoke-free products like e-cigarettes can be used. It is imperative that existing adult smokers become aware of all the alternatives currently available and that access to these products remains unimpeded.

I look forward to your response on this issue. I, along with my fellow members of CASAA (Consumer Advocates for Smoke-free Alternatives Association), thank you for considering my comments and hope you will oppose misguided attempts to limit adult use of smoke-free e-cigarettes.

Sincerely,
Andrew Pratt

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Roxana Concepcion

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Sincerely,
Sandra Cornelius

Dear Paul Seaton,

I am writing to express my deep concern and opposition regarding HB 40 and SB 1 which would include the use of smoke-free vapor products (e-cigarettes) in Alaska's smoking law.

I have been able to quit smoking using a personal vaporizer..

I smoked for 35 years and tried several different methods with no success until I found a good juice and device to vape the juice..

I have not smoked in 2 years now and the effect is amazing..

Better health, better lung function, less cost, etc. etc.

Please make an informed choice when this comes before you..

Steven Mapes,, (a voter)

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Sincerely,
Jamie Chilton

Dear Paul Seaton,

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Just think if you ban you will collect more in taxes in generating the taxes we get from the smokers, which in turn are causing a health standard nightmare. I suggest the government get out of the public sector drop anarchy methods allow the people to grow up and become adults and choose what they feel is right. (And wrong) If you should pass another bill as such, remember how unconstitutionally biased as demi gods would act. We are not children and are supposed to by law have free thinking and acting. In so much as idyllic methods just look in a mirror and see what you are or want to be. We DO not work for you. YOU work for us. At least this is what I was taught. Yes I agree there are a few places that it should probably not be done. However let the owner choose the proper method to what customers and employers can and cannot do. This is not your job! Sorry to say I have just started doing e- cigarettes after through research I too do not want to see in a movie theater the vapor. However this is not your place to enforce or enact any law when the establishments are the ones to do. You will find 99% will abide by their requests. Simple or they can be asked to leave. Remember the right to choose to serve whomever they want. There are already laws on the books for this if they do not abide.

Smoking laws are ostensibly enacted to protect the public from the harm of secondhand smoke, but smoke-free 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. A comprehensive review conducted by Dr. Igor Burstyn of Drexel University School of Public Health (and published in a peer-reviewed journal earlier this year - <http://www.biomedcentral.com/1471-2458/14/18/abstract>) examined over 9,000 observations of e-cigarette liquid and vapor and found "no apparent concern" for bystanders exposed to e-cigarette vapor, even under "worst case" assumptions about exposure.

Lawmakers must beware of unintended consequences from well-intentioned laws. There is clear evidence of a phenomenon called "accidental quitting," wherein many of the smokers who initially choose e-cigarettes to use just where smoking is prohibited go on to quit smoking conventional cigarettes completely. Prohibiting the use of e-cigarettes in public spaces completely eliminates that incentive to even try e-cigarettes. Unfortunately, the health risks of every one smoker who doesn't quit because e-cigarette use is prohibited (and the risks to the children and others who live with them) cummulative outweigh any good done by eliminating the miniscule exposures to even hundreds of bystanders in public spaces.

Clearly, the benefits of allowing smokers to use e-cigarettes in public--and thereby increasing the likelihood of "accidental quitting" and reducing the known, extremely high health risks of smoking--outweigh the very low risks of insignificant exposures to bystanders. So, not only is there no genuine public health reason to prohibit e-cigarette use in public spaces, but, in fact, allowing e-cigarettes to be used in public spaces will actually improve public health by inspiring other smokers to switch and reduce their health risks by an estimated 99%. Moreover, private businesses in Alaska are already setting their own policies, and they should retain the right to allow or disallow usage since there is no proven health threat to bystanders.

While I understand some have expressed a fear about these products acting as a "gateway" to traditional cigarettes for youth, there is no evidence to suggest this is really happening, and research actually shows it is unlikely to happen to any substantial extent. Teen smoking rates are at their lowest point since smoking became popular and continue to drop, but there are adults who will continue to smoke until they die unless we provide attractive alternatives.

I urge you to oppose these bills and any legislation that would limit where smoke-free products like e-cigarettes can be used. It is imperative that existing adult smokers become aware of all the alternatives currently available and that access to these products remains unimpeded.

I look forward to your response on this issue. I, along with my fellow members of CASAA (Consumer Advocates for Smoke-free Alternatives Association), thank you for considering my comments and hope you will oppose misguided attempts to limit adult use of smoke-free e-cigarettes.

Sincerely,
James Manakis

Dear Paul Seaton,

I am writing to express my deep concern and opposition regarding HB 40 and SB 1 which would include the use of smoke-free vapor products (e-cigarettes) in Alaska's smoking law.

Smoking laws are ostensibly enacted to protect the public from the harm of secondhand smoke, but smoke-free 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. A comprehensive review conducted by Dr. Igor Burstyn of Drexel University School of Public Health (and published in a peer-reviewed journal earlier this year - <http://www.biomedcentral.com/1471-2458/14/18/abstract>) examined over 9,000 observations of e-cigarette liquid and vapor and found "no apparent concern" for bystanders exposed to e-cigarette vapor, even under "worst case" assumptions about exposure.

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I urge you to oppose these bills and any legislation that would limit where smoke-free products like e-cigarettes can be used. It is imperative that existing adult smokers become aware of all the alternatives currently available and that access to these products remains unimpeded.

I look forward to your response on this issue. I, along with my fellow members of CASAA (Consumer Advocates for Smoke-free Alternatives Association), thank you for considering my comments and hope you will oppose misguided attempts to limit adult use of smoke-free e-cigarettes.

Sincerely,
Jason Stenson