

Marie Murray

From: Ariel Hasse <contacting.ariel@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, April 09, 2015 10:39 AM
To: Marie Murray
Subject: Testimony to Senate Bill 1

Testimony to Senate Bill 1

Thank you Chairman Stoltze and Committee members for listening to my testimony today, my name is Ariel Hasse, I'm from Wasilla here in Sitka for the Alaska Association of student Governments conference and I am currently a senior at Mat-Su Career and Technical High School. I am currently serving my third term as school student government president and my second term as the MSBSD Student Advisory Board president, and I recently served as the president for the statewide student government organization, the Alaska Association of Student Governments.

These organizations have inspired me and allowed me to serve my peers and my community, whether local or state. For me, serving is the essence of leadership, community, and human compassion. Furthermore I find serving high school students particularly important due to their impending place in society. I believe its often forgotten who our children become and why. Elementary school kids will soon become secondary students and high school students will even more soon become adults. We will assume your jobs, your offices, your companies, and your duties. More than that, what is namely left forgotten is how the decisions and environments of high school students are the sculpting forces of their personhoods. In other word what we experience and learn of ourselves today will often be an integral part of who we are throughout our adulthood.

When it comes to the question of restricting smoking in Alaska, I call on you, Alaska's lawmakers to keep servitude and future generations in mind. While teenagers are not permitted to smoke cigarettes as law stands, the data shows that this does not prevent hundreds of Alaskan students from breathing tar, nicotine, paint thinners, and more into their lungs each year. Restricting areas for smoking will bring these numbers down.

People, teenagers especially are impressionable. As cigarettes are seen more in public and in work environments they will become more desirable. Moreover the wider range of smoking areas increases the availability of smoking. In both ways by enabling smoking we are leading our youth down a path of smoke.

While this bill covers many areas and uses, I believe one section in particular stands proof for the rest, particularly for youth. As students prepare monetarily and skills wise for the world beyond the schoolhouse, many begin work at their first job. This job provides essential professional skills that students can attain in a more forgiving atmosphere than their first post-secondary occupation. However while these jobs are helping to build their future, second hand smoke, and impressionable smoking is tarnishing it. Without SB 1 students must choose between the costs of not achieving more for their futures and taking away from their lives from second hand smoke. The effects of second hand smoke are not up for debate, each year thousands of American's are developing lung cancer, despite never taking a puff. Representatives of Alaska, taking away the choice to smoke in a workplace is not near the consequence of taking away a life from an innocent young bystander.

Every year hundreds of Alaskans turn eighteen. With this event marks new voters, however I urge you not to start your responsibility to them then, but to become responsive to your future constituents today. For they will be our voters, our employees, eventually your fellow politicians, our mothers, our grandfathers, they will make up our communities. As I testify here today representing all the students of Alaska I call you to secure our safety and our community, please protect our youth and pass SB 1.

ANCHORAGE LEGISLATIVE INFORMATION OFFICE

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

WRITTEN TESTIMONY

NAME: Luan Jensen

REPRESENTING: SELF & CHILDREN

BILL#/ SUBJECT: SB1

COMMITTEE &

HEARING DATE: _____

Tilolo Kodiak
& Kaliak Brook's inspect
pass & present ✓
KB

As a mom of (2) young children part of my responsibility is to protect my children & limit exposure to harmful environments.
I feel that all ALASKANS should be protected ~~in~~ from in their workplaces & I strongly support SB1 to include E-cigarettes.

I SHARED THIS WITH THE HOUSE & WANTED TO SHARE WITH YOU.
Two months ago, JOHNS HOPKINS ~~recently~~ reported that exposure to E-cigarette aerosols results in decreased ability to withstand bacterial & viral infections in mice."
They concluded:

"Despite the common perception that E-cigs are safe, this study clearly demonstrates that E-cig use, even for relatively brief periods, may have significant consequences to respiratory health."

Daniel George

From: Betty MacTavish <mactavish.betty@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, April 10, 2015 10:47 AM
To: Sen. Bill Stoltze; Sen. John Coghill; Sen. Charlie Huggins; Sen. Lesil McGuire; Bill.Wielechowski@akleg.gov
Subject: Fwd: SB-1 Supporter

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Betty MacTavish** <mactavish.betty@gmail.com>
Date: Fri, Apr 10, 2015 at 10:39 AM
Subject: SB-1 Supporter
To: chuck.kopp@akleg.gov

We need to have SB-1 onto the Senate floor this session for a vote. Lives are at stake each year that this Bill does not get to the Legislature. This bill has a documented supporter base of 71% to over 80% of Alaska's citizens are in favor of this Bill to protect workers from secondhand smoke across this Great State. How much more disease and death must be endured before the Legislature does the right thing to protect its citizens? I hope the answer is no longer! Pass SB-1 - the Take it Outside Bill!

Sincerely,
Betty MacTavish
Kodiak, Alaska

Daniel George

From: Dana <danadenise99645@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, April 09, 2015 4:49 PM
To: Sen. Bill Stoltze; Sen. John Coghill; Sen. Charlie Huggins; Sen. Lesil McGuire; Sen. Bill Wielechowski; haronno@gmail.com
Subject: Support SB 1

Good afternoon, my name is Dana Phillips and I am a 19 year resident of the Mat Su valley. I am a non-smoker that avoids smoking establishments. Two years ago when the City of Palmer went smoke free, I was able to frequent several fine establishments that were previously off limits to me.

Secondhand smoke is a major cause of preventable death. In 2006, the US Surgeon General concluded that there is no risk-free level of exposure to secondhand smoke.

Presently, only half of Alaska's population is covered by a smokefree workplace law. Due to limitations in local authority, they are unable to pass their own smokefree laws and must now depend on the statewide law to protect their health and breath.

I appreciate having the right to breathe, and would like to see other Alaskans also have that right.

Dana Phillips
9030 East Kiva Way
Palmer, AK 99645

Sent from my iPhone

Daniel George

From: Dana <danadenise99645@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, April 09, 2015 4:49 PM
To: Sen. Bill Stoltze; Sen. John Coghill; Sen. Charlie Huggins; Sen. Lesil McGuire; Sen. Bill Wielechowski; haronno@gmail.com
Subject: Support SB 1

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I appreciate having the right to breathe, and would like to see other Alaskans also have that right.

Dana Phillips
9030 East Kiva Way
Palmer, AK 99645

Sent from my iPhone

Daniel George

Subject: I support HB 1

From: Dana R. Mudd [mailto:dananmudd@mtaonline.net]

Sent: Thursday, April 09, 2015 5:15 PM

To: Chuck Kopp; Sen. Bill Wielechowski; Sen. Bill Stoltze; Sen. John Coghill; Sen. Charlie Huggins

Subject: I support HB 1

Dear Senators:

Fully 80% of Alaskans support smokefree workplaces. My name is dana steininger_, and I do, too.

I have smoking and vaping friends that know smoking is bad for them, but have been unable to quit so far. They would never DREAM of smoking in anyone's home, much less a place of business, even their own, as it is not only painful and smelly to breathe, but also dangerous.

Secondhand smoke causes approximately 3400 deaths from lung cancer and 22 to 69 thousand deaths from heart disease each year.

Please support every Alaskans opportunity to both work AND breathe clean air.

Dana steininger

7529 s fiskari drive
9073737219

Daniel George

From: advocacy@mylegislators.com on behalf of Gail Forrest <GLFRRST@aol.com>
Sent: Friday, April 10, 2015 12:24 PM
To: Sen. Bill Stoltze
Subject: Vote Aye for Senate Bill 1

Dear Senator Bill Stoltze:

As an American Heart Association|American Stroke Association advocate, I urge you to vote "Aye" on Senate Bill 1.

The U.S. Surgeon General has declared that there is no safe level of exposure to secondhand smoke. It is a serious health hazard, causing heart disease and cancer. The 2006 surgeon general's report further states "the evidence is sufficient to infer a causal relationship between exposure to secondhand smoke and increased risks of coronary heart disease among both men and women."

Currently, more than half of Alaskans live in communities with smoke-free workplace laws in place, but the remaining population lives in areas that are unable to enact smoke-free workplace laws due to limited power in the local government.

Additionally, Alaskans strongly support smoke-free indoor workplaces:

- " 4 in 5 Alaska adults support smoke-free workplaces.
- " Support for smoke-free indoor workplaces includes a strong majority of current smokers (59%) as well as former smokers (80%).
- " Alaskan support for smoke-free indoor workplaces is high throughout all regions of the state, ranging from 75% to 84%.

I support SB 1 to make Alaska a healthier pace to live. Please vote "Aye" on this important bill.

Sincerely,
Gail Forrest
11569 Discovery View Dr
Anchorage, AK 99515-2752

Daniel George

From: george scharf <georgescharf@yahoo.com>
Sent: Wednesday, April 08, 2015 6:57 PM
To: Chuck Kopp
Cc: Sen. John Coghill; Sen. Bill Stoltze; Sen. Lesil McGuire; Sen. Bill Wielechowski; Sen. Charlie Huggins
Subject: support SB1

Dear Senators,

I've been a resident of Alaska since 1978. I've seen Alaska, and especially, the Mat Su Valley, grow as a community. I've enjoyed some of the changes that have happened during my residence in Alaska. I believe one of the changes that needs to be made in this state is to have smoke-free indoor workplaces.

There are still bars and restaurants that allow smoking in Wasilla. Smoking is a public health issue, and yet we still allow smoking inside buildings and workplaces. The correlation between smoking and lung cancer is undeniable.

Many individuals who are employed in restaurants and bars that allow smoking are unable to leave their jobs because they need them. It would seem as if the employees forced to work where smoking is permitted are simply not being afforded the same rights as others. I pity those with asthma or COPD who cannot endure the effects of secondhand smoke.

Please support the public health of all Alaskans and vote in favor of SB1.

George Scharf
P.O. Box 876658
Wasilla, AK 99687
907-745-6833

Daniel George

From: Inna Rivkin <idrивkin@alaska.edu>
Sent: Thursday, April 09, 2015 11:32 PM
To: Chuck Kopp
Cc: Sen. Bill Stoltze; Sen. John Coghill; Sen. Charlie Huggins; Sen. Lesil McGuire; Sen. Bill Wielechowski
Subject: Support for smoke-free workplace law Senate Bill 1

To the Senate State Affairs Committee,

As a Fairbanks resident who values the freedom of all workers to breathe smoke-free air, I am very happy to see the progression of a bill that would create a smoke-free workplace law. This development brings great hope and anticipation. I have lived in Fairbanks for eight years, and look forward to many more decades here in this beautiful and vibrant place.

As you know, a smoke-free campus policy has been approved at University of Alaska campuses. As a faculty member at UAF, I am grateful for the ability to breathe clean air at my workplace. But not everyone experiences this benefit. I believe that all workers deserve the right to breathe smoke-free air, regardless of their occupation. No-one should have to choose between their job and their health. The health risks that workers face at smoky establishments are ones that are preventable with a change in policy. It's time for this change to happen.

A smoke-free workplace law would protect the health of workers, as well as customers and the public as a whole. Broad environmental policies such as this one have significant health impacts. It can help protect health for generations to come.

A smoke-free workplace law would also provide greater access and opportunities for those with health conditions that experience difficulties when exposed to tobacco. As someone with sensitivities to tobacco, I experience health problems when exposed for even short periods of time. Due to my sensitivities, I have to avoid not only establishments where smoking is allowed, but even places that share walls or ventilation with smoky establishments. For example, Lemongrass Thai, and Loose Moose Café both choose to be smoke-free establishments, yet they are infiltrated with smoke from the bars next door. A smoke-free workplace law would result in clean air in such places as well, protecting the health of customers and workers and the vitality of their business. The regulations limiting smoking around doorways would also reduce the smoke exposure people like me have to deal with in our day to day lives when trying to get in or out of various establishments.

Although I personally struggle with the health effects of exposure to smoke, whether I'm trying to get into the doorway of Fred Meyers or figuring out which social opportunities I can safely join in on, the most compelling reason for a smoke-free workplace law is for the workers who are heavily exposed in their jobs, day in and day out. I am grateful for the ability to breathe smoke-free air at my workplace, and feel that other workers, including restaurant and bar staff, should experience the same benefits, regardless of where they work. I support smoke-free workplaces for Alaska.

Thank you,

Inna Rivkin

2053 Toboggan Lane

Fairbanks, AK 99709

Daniel George

From: Jim F <jimfassler@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, April 08, 2015 6:21 PM
To: Sen. Bill Stoltze
Subject: SB Statewide no smoking

I oppose exemptions to the no smoking initiative. All or Nothing!! Other communities in the state have not had negative impact to business because of smoking bans.

Thank you

Jim Fassler
36815 Cheechako News Dr
Soldotna, Alaska 99669
[907-398-8384](#)

Marie Murray

From: Kea Bekkedahl <kbekks23@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, April 09, 2015 9:39 AM
To: Marie Murray
Subject: Smoke free alaska sb1

Hi I'm kea bekkedahl and I am a junior at mat-su career and technical high school in Wasilla. Whenever I walk through a public place like a grocery store, I see adults outside the store smoking. I don't believe that I should have to hold my breath as I walk past them as I buy food. Teenagers see these adults and many of them probably don't have the same mindset I do when I walk past smokers. They might see someone smoking who they may look up to. The people we look up to can greatly affect what we choose do do with our life. Do we want to encourage teens to get lung cancer?

Individuals shouldn't have to get involuntary second hand smoke just because they want to go to a public place. They should be free to breath smoke free air. For the health of smokers, employers shouldn't be allowing their employees to smoke during breaks because not only is it affecting others around the smoker, it is affecting the smoker themselves. By allowing employees to smoke at work, employers are ultimately encouraging their employees to have unhealthy lives with the string possibility of heart problems. These smokers may want to quit smoking and allowing these smoke breaks to continue smoking doesn't help the smoker's journey in quitting. It is important that teens see the bad effects of smoking and seeing their mentors or role models destroying the health of themselves and the others around them.

Sent from my iPod

Daniel George

From: Kira Page <page.kira@yahoo.com>
Sent: Wednesday, April 08, 2015 5:07 PM
To: Chuck Kopp
Cc: Sen. Bill Stoltze; Sen. John Coghill; Sen. Charlie Huggins; Sen. Lesil McGuire; Sen. Bill Wielechowski; haronno@gmail.com
Subject: Support for SB 1

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Editor,

I am writing as a concerned citizen and voicing my support for a comprehensive smoke-free ordinance that would cover ALL employees in any worksite in the state of Alaska.

I have spent a great amount of time in restaurants and workplaces where secondhand smoke is prevalent. Understanding the negative effects of secondhand smoke, I am a firm believer that smoke-free workplaces are necessary.

It is a fact that secondhand smoke is a health hazard. It contains more than 4,000 chemicals and can lead to many health problems, including heart disease, cancer, respiratory infections and asthma.

As an Alaskan, I believe that I have the right to breathe clean air in restaurants, bars and other workplaces. I do not choose to smoke and therefore should not have to be exposed to smoke when I am in public.

Evidence shows that strong smoke-free laws that cover all workplaces including restaurants and bars are effective at reducing the risk of secondhand smoke exposure. In fact, laws that support strong smoking ordinances prove to have no adverse effect to the revenue of business owners. Consequently they have improved the health of the employees and communities tremendously.

I urge constituents to express their desire for an ordinance that includes ALL workplaces.

Fifty years after the first Surgeon General's report we have learned that the estimated increase in risk for stroke from exposure to secondhand smoke is about 20 percent to 30 percent.

Furthermore, the Surgeon General's report states that, "the evidence is sufficient to infer a causal relationship between the implementation of a smoke-free law or policy and a reduction in coronary events among people younger than 65 years of age."

Secondhand smoke kills smokers and nonsmokers alike. I should not be at a higher risk for health problems because I go to restaurants or other workplaces that allow smoking. The harmful effects of secondhand smoke should be eliminated by simply requiring smoke-free workplaces.

I further encourage the lawmakers to not exempt any businesses, nor make an exception for e-cigarettes and vape pens. . The science is clear, there is no safe alternative other than a complete smoke-free law that covers all public workplaces.

Kira Page
6109 Debarr rd #107
Anchorage, AK 99504
5412072861

Daniel George

From: Lisa McCutcheon <lmccutcheon@threadalaska.org>
Sent: Friday, April 10, 2015 7:09 PM
To: letters@alaskadispatch.com
Cc: Sen. Bill Stoltze; senator.john.coghill@akleg.gov; Sen. Charlie Huggins; Sen. Lesil McGuire; Sen. Bill Wielechowski; haronno@gmail.com
Subject: Smoke Free Work Places in Alaska In memory of Carl McCutcheon

Dear Editor,

Secondhand smoke is a major cause of chronic illness and disability such as emphysema, asthma, and respiratory infection. Just as we expect workplace protection from other deadly toxins like asbestos, benzene, and lead, why should people not be given common sense workplace protection from this preventable cause of disease and death?

A recent study determined that even a half hour of exposure to secondhand smoke dramatically increases a person's short-term risk of heart attack. This is a result of the immediate effect secondhand smoke has on the cardiovascular system of nonsmokers. Other research shows that short-term secondhand smoke exposure "activates" blood platelets, making them sticky and starting the process of atherosclerosis (blockage of the heart's arteries).

Nonsmokers regularly exposed to secondhand smoke suffer death rates 30 percent higher than that of unexposed nonsmokers. Studies show that smokefree policies work. They protect the health of nonsmokers, who make up over

80 % of Alaska's population, and also benefit employers. Employees who work in smokefree environments are healthier, suffer less absenteeism, and file fewer workers' compensation claims. Employee turnover is less frequent, reducing the associated training costs. In addition, many insurance companies discount their fire, property, and health policy premiums for smokefree workplaces.

Thousands of cities, counties and states across the country have enacted laws protecting the working public from secondhand smoke. In Alaska, the Municipality of Anchorage and several cities like Palmer, Juneau, Nome and Bethel have all passed 100% smokefree ordinances for worksites and public places. Other localities are unable to enjoy the benefits of similar health regulation due to their lack of status as first class cities.

Alaska needs a clean indoor air law - for the health of our citizens and to reduce exposure to the harms of secondhand smoke.

I have already lost my father to lung cancer since 2005 because laws were not in place for his protection or others protection from first and second hand smoke.

Respectfully,

Lisa McCutcheon, M. Ed

Professional Development Specialist

Direct: 907.265.3112

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3350 Commerical Drive, Suite 203

Anchorage, AK 99501



Daniel George

From: Michelle Maynor <michelle@interiorgraphics.com>
Sent: Thursday, April 09, 2015 3:04 PM
To: Chuck Kopp
Cc: Sen. Bill Stoltze; Sen. John Coghill; Sen. Charlie Huggins; Sen. Lesil McGuire; Sen. Bill Wielechowski
Subject: Support for Senate Bill 1

Good Afternoon -

I just wanted to drop you a note and let you know that I fully support the approval of Senate Bill 1.

Alaska is a great State with some amazing people in it. Those people deserve the right to breath clean, smoke-free air. SB1 doesn't prevent folks from smoking regular or e-cigarettes, it just makes sure they are not doing it in a place that would infringe on others rights to unpolluted air.

This is an important issue to me because I have a daughter that will be entering the workforce soon and the types of jobs she'll likely get while she's attending UAF will most likely be in food service or waitressing. She won't have much influence and won't be able to voice her opinion, other than looking for work elsewhere.

As adults, employers and lawmakers, we have a responsibility to provide safe places for all our residents to work, and SB1 will make that easier to enforce statewide.

Thank you for your consideration,

Michelle Maynor

~~~~~

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## Daniel George

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**From:** Octavia Harris <octavia.m.harris@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, April 09, 2015 9:11 AM  
**To:** Chuck Kopp  
**Cc:** Sen. Bill Stoltze; Sen. John Coghill; Sen. Charlie Huggins; Sen. Lesil McGuire; Sen. Bill Wielechowski  
**Subject:** SB1:Taking It Outside

Dear State Affairs Committee,

I live and work in Fairbanks. My husband and I have two growing and active boys. Our oldest boy, a teenager, and I both have asthma. One of our triggers is cigarette smoke. In Fairbanks we experience exposure to secondhand smoke as we enter and leave many public places including grocery stores. Individuals stand right by doors and intakes making it difficult to avoid. Each asthma attack caused scarring on our lungs, aging is from the inside out. Additionally there are many workplaces that allow indoor smoking and there is concern that my son will have to suffer exposure as he enters the workforce in Fairbanks. E-cigarette use is also a concern as many youth and young adults are not aware of the dangers of e-cigarettes and are using these products at higher rates than traditional cigarettes or even in combination. I support SB1 and strongly believe that it provides protection for all Alaskans. I ask the committee to support SB1 and pass it through the State Affairs Committee.

Thank you,  
Octavia Harris  
1353 Joyce Drive  
Fairbanks, AK 99701

## Daniel George

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**From:** Rose Lyford <roselyford@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, April 09, 2015 8:41 AM  
**To:** Chuck Kopp  
**Cc:** senator.bill.stoltze@akleg.gov

Dear Senators,

Legislative officials have an obligation to their voters to protect their health and well-being. That is why The Alaska State House and Senate need to pass a smokefree workplace regulation.

When officials discover that the lives of thousands of workers are at risk and there is something they can do to rid citizens of this risk, they must take the issue up and deal with it. Such is the case with secondhand smoke. Every day thousands of Alaskan employees enter workplaces where secondhand smoke impacts their health.

I urge our elected officials to act boldly and pass a health regulation providing smokefree air in our worksites.

Rose Lyford  
3560 south Phenix  
Wasilla, Alaska 99623

Sent from my iPhone

## **Daniel George**

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**From:** Sunny Hemen <krazysunny96@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 08, 2015 8:39 PM  
**To:** Chuck Kopp  
**Cc:** Sen. Bill Stoltze; Sen. John Coghill; Sen. Charlie Huggins; Sen. Lesil McGuire; Sen. Bill Wielechowski  
**Subject:** Support for Senate Bill 1

Dear Members of the Senate State Affairs Committee,

My name is Sunny Hemen, and I live in Eagle, Alaska, where there is no smoke-free workplace ordinance. I am 15 years old and I go to Eagle Community School. I am in full support of Senate Bill 1.

I am growing up around secondhand smoke and vapor from cigarettes and other tobacco products. Secondhand smoking effects my health. I have suffered from asthma for about three years, ever since I stopped smoking. If I am around someone else who is smoking or vaping, my throat closes up and I can't breathe. It is not my decision, but the choice of those around me. I should be able to go into businesses and public places without having to be concerned about secondhand smoke. I believe that I should always be in control of the chemicals that go into my body, not those around me. Because of this, I am in full support of Senate Bill 1.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Sunny Hemen  
161 Taylor Highway  
Eagle, Alaska 99738

## Daniel George

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**From:** Terrence Robbins <trobbins3710@outlook.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 08, 2015 5:07 PM  
**To:** Chuck Kopp  
**Cc:** Sen. Bill Stoltze; Sen. John Coghill; Sen. Charlie Huggins; Sen. Lesil McGuire; Sen. Bill Wielechowski  
**Subject:** I Support SB1

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Completed

Honorable Senators,

Hi! My name is Terrence Robbins, and I was born and raised in Alaska and I fully support Senate Bill 1.

As we all know, the damaging effects of smoking kill many Alaskans every year. In 1982, while I was in high school, my grandfather, Alfred Gordon of Juneau, died from lung cancer. My mother, June Robbins of Ketchikan, who settled in Alaska in the 60's, lost both of her parents to cancer before I was old enough to remember them. After their death, she brought two brothers and three sisters to Alaska where they lived until retirement. She retired from the Ketchikan Legislative Information Office. My mother's sister, Eileen Jones of Juneau, worked for the State of Alaska and died from cancer shortly after her retirement in 2007. Her sister Laura D'Arcy of Butte, Montana, who loved visiting Alaska with her family, was killed by cancer 2010. Her brother Earl McLean of Ketchikan, died from smoking-related heart disease in 2010. Her husband, and my father, Dale "Mickey" Robbins of Ketchikan, who worked for the Alaska DOT for 30 years, retired from the State after being treated for cancer. Thankfully he is a cancer survivor, as is his sister Connie Libel of Juneau, who lost an arm to cancer as a teen, yet still had a successful career with Alaska Airlines.

Personally, I became addicted to snus (Kodiak-brand) when I was thirteen and playing Senior League Baseball in Ketchikan. I ended up chewing tobacco (first Kodiak, then Skoal, and finally, Copenhagen) for the next 20+ years. I used Commit lozenges for TWO YEARS before I was free from my nicotine addiction. Kodiak has a pleasant wintergreen flavor, was inexpensive, my friends also chewed it, and it gave me a great buzz. Fast forward from the 1980's to today, and replace the word "Kodiak" with "E-Cigarettes" and we have our answer to how we can addict the next generation of 13-year-olds to nicotine products.

I support SB1 because I have witnessed the last, ragged, breath that my only grandfather took and I saw my mother spend two "retirement" years desperately trying to comfort and care for her little sisters as they wasted away and eventually succumbed to their cancer. Smoking is so addictive, and so deadly, that, in my opinion, this simple act: protecting our friends, our family, and our neighbors from second hand smoke, will surely prevent illness, it will save lives, it will help tobacco users to quit smoking, and, by changing community norms regarding smoking, that it will reduce youth smoking rates.

Thank you very much for your hard work!

Terrence Robbins, Ketchikan, AK