



Alaska

DENTAL SOCIETY

February 19, 2017

The Honorable Peter Micciche
Alaska State Senate
Alaska State Capitol, Room 514
Juneau, Alaska 99801

Dear Senator Micciche,

The Alaska Dental Society (ADS) is writing in support of SB63.

The Alaska Dental Society fully supports your efforts in passage of Senate Bill 63. Our membership, the dentists of Alaska, are all too familiar with the detrimental effects second hand smoke has on our patients, the citizens of Alaska. The negative health effects of second hand smoke have been thoroughly studied and peer reviewed. Although most commonly associated with pulmonary and cardiovascular disease, multiple studies published and reviewed in the Journal of American Dental Association (JADA), American Journal of Public Health and the Journal of American Medical Association identified links between a higher rate of carries and periodontitis and exposure to second hand smoke. This unfortunate association is not limited to adults. The JADA has found increased rate of carries amongst infants and children exposed to second hand smoke.

Given the overwhelming scientific evidence, the ADS believes that limiting exposure to second hand smoke is in the best interest those Alaskan citizens that do not wish to be incidentally exposed. We support and thank you for proposing SB63.



Dr. Jessica Blanco
Governmental Affairs Chair, Alaska Dental Society



**ALASKA NATIVE
TRIBAL HEALTH
CONSORTIUM**

February 27, 2017

Senate Health & Social Services Committee
Attn: Chair, Senator David Wilson
Alaska State Capitol
Juneau, AK 99801

RE: Support for Senate Bill 63

Dear Chairman Wilson and Members of the Senate Health and Social Services Committee:

The Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium (ANTHC) is a statewide tribal health organization that serves all 229 tribes and more than 158,000 Alaska Natives and American Indians (AN/AIs) in Alaska. ANTHC and Southcentral Foundation co-manage the Alaska Native Medical Center, the tertiary care hospital for all AN/AI people in Alaska. ANTHC also provides a wide range of statewide public health, community health, environmental health and other programs and services for Alaska Native people and their communities.

On behalf of ANTHC, I write in support of Senate Bill 63. Not all Alaskans are protected from exposure to secondhand smoke. Currently, smoke-free workplace laws cover only half the state's population, and many boroughs lack the authority necessary to pass a local law. The only way for all Alaskans to be protected from the harmful effects of secondhand smoke is through a statewide smoke-free workplace law.

The use of tobacco is the nation's number one cause of preventable death, killing nearly 600 Alaskans each year from direct tobacco use. In 2012, Alaska spent \$538 million in medical expenditures and an additional \$231 million in lost productivity due to tobacco-related deaths. At twice the rate of non-Natives, 42% of AN/AI people smoke and 15% use smokeless tobacco.

Cancer is the leading cause of death among Alaska Native people and lung cancer is one of the most frequently diagnosed cancers. Cigarette smoking is linked to approximately 90% of all lung cancer cases in the United States. Heart disease is the second leading cause of death among AN/AI people and smoking and exposure to secondhand smoke are major risk factors for heart disease.

There is widespread support for smoke-free workplaces. Among AI/AN adults, 89% believe smoking should not be allowed in indoor work areas and 86% support smoke-free restaurants.

Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium
4000 Ambassador Drive, Anchorage, Alaska 99508
Main: (907) 729-1900 | Fax: (907) 729-1901 | anthc.org

Thank you for the opportunity to provide these comments. Please do not hesitate contact me at (907) 729-1908 or by email at gmoses@anthc.org with any questions or if additional information can be provided.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gerald Moses". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Gerald Moses
Senior Director of Intergovernmental Affairs



April 19, 2016

Senator Peter Micciche
State Capitol, Room: 514
120 E. 4th St.
Juneau, AK 99801

Dear Senator Micciche,

The Denali Oncology Group and the American Society of Clinical Oncology (ASCO) strongly support Alaska Senate Bill 1 to create smoke-free workplaces. We urge the Alaska legislature to enact a smoke-free workplace law as soon as possible.

The Denali Oncology Group (DOG), an organization of oncologists and other health care professionals, is the Alaska Affiliate of ASCO, the national organization representing nearly 40,000 physicians and other healthcare professionals specializing in cancer treatment, diagnosis, and prevention.

The U.S. Surgeon General's 2014 report, "*50th Anniversary Surgeon General's Report: The Health Consequences of Smoking—50 Years of Progress*," noted that tobacco smoke contains more than 7,000 chemicals, including hundreds that are toxic and about 70 that can cause cancer; and secondhand smoke exposure caused more than 7,300 lung cancer deaths each year during 2005–2009 among adult nonsmokers in the United States.

Tobacco use is the leading preventable cause of cancer in the world. It is linked to a long list of cancers, including cancers of the lung, esophagus, mouth, larynx and pancreas, and many others. There is no safe form of tobacco and no safe level of tobacco use. Even brief exposure can be harmful to health.

The DOG and ASCO strongly support policies aimed at reducing and ultimately eliminating tobacco-related disease through discouraging the use of tobacco products and exposure to secondhand smoke. We support clean indoor air policies and efforts to prohibit the use of tobacco products in public places. Such policies are proven to reduce exposure to secondhand smoke. They also result in increased tobacco cessation by adults and decreased initiation among youth.

Thank you for your attention to this important issue. If you have questions or would like assistance on any issue related to providing care of individuals with cancer, please do not hesitate to contact Latha Subramanian M.D. at the Denali Oncology Group or Jennifer Brunelle at ASCO at jennifer.brunelle@asco.org.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Latha Subramanian M.D." in a cursive style.

Latha Subramanian
President, DOG

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Julie Vose" in a cursive style.

Julie M. Vose, MD, MBA, FASCO
President, American Society of Clinical Oncology

-----Original Message-----

From: American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network [<mailto:ican@acscan.org>]

Sent: Thursday, February 23, 2017 8:31 PM

To: Sen. Peter Micciche <Sen.Peter.Micciche@akleg.gov>

Subject: Thank you for sponsoring the smoke-free workplace bill

Feb 23, 2017

State Senator Peter Micciche
State Capitol, Room 508
120 Fourth Street
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Dear State Senator Micciche,

As your constituent, I wanted to thank you for sponsoring the smoke-free bill (SB63). I urge you to continue to support the passage of this important bill as it progresses through its committees.

Peter,

Thanks for your leadership on this one. There are many healthcare issues I feel strongly about; smoke free environments is one we can definitely agree on.

Kristin

Thanks for your help in protecting everyone's right to breathe smoke-free air by sponsoring SB63. With your help, 2017 will be the year when Alaska becomes a smoke-free state.

Sincerely,

Dr. Kristin Mitchell
247 N Fireweed St
Ste A
Soldotna, AK 99669-7593
(907) 283-4109
politicalkmm@gmail.com

-----Original Message-----

From: American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network [mailto:ican@acscan.org]

Sent: Tuesday, May 24, 2016 9:15 AM

To: Sen. Peter Micciche <Sen.Peter.Micciche@akleg.gov>

Subject: Thank you for being a champion for smoke-free workplaces!

May 24, 2016

State Senator Peter Micciche

State Capitol, Room 514

120 Fourth Street

Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Dear State Senator Micciche,

I was so happy to see that you voted in favor of Senate Bill 1, the Take It Outside Act, to make indoor workplaces across Alaska smoke-free. Thank you for taking a stand for the health of all of the employees, patrons, and business owners across the state.

As someone who cares about promoting and protecting the health of Alaskans, I want to let you know how proud I was to learn that you are keeping the best interests of our citizens at heart. Everyone deserves to breathe clean, smoke-free air.

Please help this bill succeed by encouraging your fellow legislators in the House to support this bill as it moves through that chamber.

Thank you for doing the right thing for Alaska workers and making smoke-free workplaces a priority. Keep up the good work!

Sincerely,

Ms. Vanessa Reese

1949 Gillam Way Ste A

Fairbanks, AK 99701-6089

(907) 987-7329

vreesee@thrivealaska.com

From: Alaska Tom [mailto:alaskatom66@hotmail.com]

Sent: Wednesday, February 22, 2017 3:26 PM

To: Sen. David Wilson <Sen.David.Wilson@akleg.gov>; Sen. Natasha Von Imhof <Sen.Natasha.VonImhof@akleg.gov>; Sen. Peter Micciche <Sen.Peter.Micciche@akleg.gov>; Sen. Cathy Giessel <Sen.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov>; Sen. Tom Begich <Sen.Tom.Begich@akleg.gov>

Subject: Support For Senate Bill 63

I ask for your of support Senate Bill 63 guaranteeing everyone's right to breathe smoke-free air inside Alaska's workplaces and public places. This issue has special meaning for me.

My partner and I were in our 21st year of a relationship when small cell lung cancer claimed his life. As you may know, this form of lung cancer is generally associated with tobacco smoke. I do not want more of my Alaskan friends to suffer from the same death.

Please support Senate Bill 63.

Tom Rachal

Anchorage Resident

Rachel Hanke

From: American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network <ican@acscan.org> on behalf of John Kasukonis <ican@acscan.org>
Sent: Tuesday, February 21, 2017 6:05 PM
To: Sen. Peter Micciche
Subject: Fight cancer: Support the smoke-free workplaces bill

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Feb 21, 2017

State Senator Peter Micciche
State Capitol, Room 508
120 Fourth Street
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Dear State Senator Micciche,

I'm sure you have seen volunteers from the American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network in the Capitol today.

While I can't be in Juneau with them, I want you to know I join them in support of Senate Bill 63. I am an Alaskan who believes everyone has the right to breathe smoke-free air.

Please support the progress of SB 63.

Sincerely,

Dr. John Kasukonis
PO Box 315
Soldotna, AK 99669-0315
(907) 394-3826
kasukonis@hotmail.com