

Julie Morris

From: irreverend <irreverend23@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, March 22, 2014 3:29 PM
To: Rep. Pete Higgins; Rep. Wes Keller; Rep. Benjamin Nageak; Rep. Lance Pruitt; Rep. Lora Reinbold; Rep. Paul Seaton; Rep. Geran Tarr; Julie Morris
Cc: northernlightsvaporco@gmail.com
Subject: E-cigarette ban

I am a resident of Alaska, and while I support banning sales of e-cigarettes to minors, I OPPOSE including smoke-free e-cigarette use within the definition of "smoking."

I took up "vaping" three months ago as a safer alternative to smoking and to improve my overall health. I have been smoke free ever since! It has been the only method that has worked for me. I can breath. I don't smell like an ashtray and have actually been complimented on the pleasant aroma of my e-cigarette. I feel exponentially better physically and knowing that the second-hand is neither offensive nor toxic, like that of cigarette smoke, makes me feel like I am actually doing a favor for the public welfare. Please do not blindly lump e-cigarettes and "vapers" in the same legislation with traditional tobacco cigarettes and smokers. They are NOT the same!

Smoking bans are supposedly enacted to protect the public from the harm of secondhand smoke, but 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.

The low risks of e-cigarettes is supported by research done by Dr. Siegel of Boston University, Dr. Eissenberg of Virginia Commonwealth, Dr Maciej L Goniewicz of the Roswell Park Cancer Institute, Dr. Laugesen of Health New Zealand, Dr. Igor Burstyn of Drexel University, and by the fact that the FDA testing, in spite of its press statement, failed to find harmful levels of carcinogens or toxic levels of any chemical in the vapor.

A comprehensive review conducted by Dr. Igor Burstyn of Drexel University School of Public Health based on over 9,000 observations of e-cigarette liquid and vapor found "no apparent concern" for bystanders exposed to e-cigarette vapor, even under "worst case" assumptions about exposure.

Electronic cigarette use is easy to distinguish from actual smoking. Although some e-cigarettes resemble real cigarettes, many do not. It is easy to tell when someone lights a cigarette from the smell of smoke. E-cigarette vapor is practically odorless, and generally any detectable odor is not unpleasant and smells nothing like smoke. Additionally, e-cigarette users can decide whether to release any vapor ("discreet vaping"). With so little evidence of use, enforcing use bans on electronic cigarettes would be nearly impossible.

The ability to use electronic cigarettes in public spaces will actually improve public health by inspiring other smokers to switch. Surveys of thousands of users indicate that the majority of those who switch completely replace tobacco cigarettes with the electronic cigarettes, reducing their health risks by an estimated 99%.

Please refer to the following links for more information.

<http://casaa.org/>

<http://casaa.org/Documents.html>

Thank you for your time.

Keep Calm

And

Vape On

Concerned citizen and thankful vaper,
Ryan McKeown

Sent via the Samsung Galaxy Note® 3, an AT&T 4G LTE smartphone