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WRITTEN TESTIMONY

NAME:

Jenny Olerdorff

REPRESENTING:

citizen - Sterling

BILL # or SUBJECT:

SB 209

COMMITTEE:

Senate Finance

DATE:

4/11/14

Good morning. I am Jenny Olerdorff and I live in Sterling and work in Soldotna. I am testifying in support of SB 209, without an option for opting out, which will protect all Alaskans from the dangers of exposure to second hand smoke in the workplace. In 2005, I began working in a strip mall with 4 other separate businesses. The business next door allowed (and still allows) indoor smoking. By 2pm each day, the smoke in our office was so thick and noxious that we often had to leave work early because our eyes + throats were burning. One of my coworkers with asthma experienced breathing difficulties to the point that she begged the building owner to do something to alleviate the exposure. No modifications to the ventilation system helped, and the owner would not ask the adjacent business to have their employees + patrons take it outside. Finally, in 2012, we found another rental space whose owner has a smokefree workplace policy. I quit smoking 15 years ago, & to have to walk into my office daily and essentially smoke a cigarette without putting one in my mouth violated my most basic right to breathe clean air. SB 209 is not a smoking ban, it is a bill that protects a worker's fundamental right to a safe + healthy work environment. Also, please include e-cigarettes as there is not enough research to show that the secondhand aerosol is harmless. Thank you

Jenny Olerdorff