

Konrad Jackson

From: Mike Coons <mcoons@mtaonline.net>
Sent: Tuesday, February 23, 2016 1:30 PM
To: House Labor and Commerce
Subject: Countering Ms Stoneking, American Lung Association testimony 22 Feb

My name is Mike Coons from Palmer and speaking as an ex-smoker.

Let me open with the fact that if Alaska discriminated against any minority, like we now do to smokers, the Supreme Court and Federal Government would own us far more than they do now!

Ms Stoneking made a lot of comments yesterday that need the light of truth shown on them!

"Taxes offset cost to society of \$20 per pack in medical costs." Show me the peer review study that supports this. Medicaid is for the poor. Are the so called costs for only smoking caused cardiac, COPD? More likely combination of medical issues".

"Tax reduces users, youth/poor." Truth, illegal for under 19, reduction due to enforcement, peer pressures, etc. Truth, most poor have many issues that are not conducive to good health and greater success in life, much less quitting smoking.

"Higher taxes less purchasing." How much of that is bootlegging and internet purchasing not caught? Again, what peer reviewed data?

As to e-cigs. This is comparable to high risk sexual behavior and then taxing condoms while still engaging in multiple partner sexual conduct!

Her comment of "71% of the 85% of e-cig users who report to smoke cigarettes also do so to reduce cigarette use or in areas of no smoking". Both are positives, both are healthier and both move the person to stopping smoking. Both positive outcomes.

"Ex-smokers go to e-cig, e-cigs graduate to cigarettes." Is that like cigarettes go to heroin? Not based in any form of fact!

Cost to start e-cigs, \$30-50 one time cost. Bottle of 0-18% nicotine, 15 ml, average \$8. Four tanks, 2.5mg, \$14. Duration, average 1 week. Depending on individual \$16 for a month. Cost of cigarettes for a pack and a half per day users at \$10 a pack, \$105!

Lastly 4 ingredients, nicotine, flavor, nebulizer liquid and glycol. Not as advertised by anti-smoking ads.

Until the anti-smoking advocates start telling the truth, can back it up with peer reviewed studies based on real science and stop with the emotional attacks based on lies I will continue shining the light of truth on them and will never quit attacking the intolerance of the far left and those that outright discriminate against fellow Alaskans!

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