

KENAI LEGISLATIVE INFORMATION OFFICE

Email: Kenai_LIO@akleg.gov

Phone: 907-283-2030 / Fax: 907-283-3075

WRITTEN TESTIMONY

NAME: Marquitta M. Andrus
 REPRESENTING: Myself
 BILL # or SUBJECT: HB328
 COMMITTEE: House HSS DATE: 3-22-16

Good morning....

My name is Marquitta Andrus, I was born and raised in Sterling, Alaska. My maternal and paternal grandparents homesteaded on the Kenai and Moose River in Sterling.

My dad was a heavy smoker of 4-5 packs a day. At two weeks old I almost died. My mom awoke to gurgling sounds in my crib. To her horror she found me blue. She screamed for my dad who hung me upside down, beating my back to dislodge enough flegm for me to begin breathing again. I had pneumonia.

Back then the risks of second hand smoke were not known. My dad continued to smoke heavy all the years I lived there. (Not outside the house but inside)

In fourth grade I could not pass the Presidential Fitness Award, because of the running portion, due to shortness of breath.

For 7 years I worked in a mini mall, next to a pull tab parlor, that allowed smoking. The building had shared air throughout. At times you could see smoke seeping from the outlets. Many complaints were made to the landlord with him dismissing our concerns and he would express didn't want to lose "good renters" by asking them to go smoke free. He put glad plug ins throughout and set baking soda boxes along the walls, thinking that would fix our problem.

At a health fair, my friends asked me to go with them to the booth with the lung function test. I failed miserably, the technician highly recommending I seek medical attention right away. I was diagnosed with COPD. A lung disease that has no cure. My doctor told me I could no longer be exposed to second hand smoke as it would progress my disease. Thankfully, my board of directors understood the urgency of this and we moved to a space with Clean air.

Marquitta M. Andrus

Sent from my iPhone

Marquitta M. Andrus 3-22-16

Thank you, I urge ^{your} consideration in moving this Bill forward to the floor and vote yes for a "Healthier Alaska!"

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WRITTEN TESTIMONY

NAME: Anna Wrobel
 REPRESENTING: Self
 BILL # or SUBJECT: HB 328
 COMMITTEE: HHSS DATE: 3/22/16

Good _____ . My name is Anna Wrobel. I live in Soldotna and I am a student at Soldotna High School. I am testifying today in favor of House Bill 328. When I get out into the workforce, I want to feel safe and feel assured that I am not being exposed to an unhealthy environment. I want to be able to pick a job at a workplace based on whether I like the people and place. ~~And I don't want to~~ ^{I don't want to} have to worry about whether or not I am going to get asthma or another illness due to second-hand smoke. I just spent the last hour providing tobacco prevention education to fourth graders at Redoubt Elementary School and I want a future for myself and these children that discourages tobacco use and promotes healthy workplaces. Thank you.

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WRITTEN TESTIMONY

NAME:

Pamela Howard

REPRESENTING:

Self

BILL # or SUBJECT:

HB 328

COMMITTEE:

H/SS

DATE:

3/22/2016

I have been a school nurse for the Kenai Peninsula Borough School Dist. for 30 yrs and have seen the consequences of smoking and secondhand smoke. Both in the school and workplace, there is increased illness and absenteeism. On a personal note, I have never smoked but because I joined the workforce when employees and patients were still allowed to smoke in the hospital. As a result, I got asthma and needed to leave the hospital job and become a school nurse. I urge you to support this bill to protect our workers and children as they get jobs, and reduce. I never felt empowered to do anything about this when I was constantly being exposed, but now I can request you to use your power to do something about this. Thank you so much.

Pamela K. Howard, RN

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WRITTEN TESTIMONY

NAME:

MARION NELSON

REPRESENTING:

SELF

BILL # or SUBJECT:

HB 328

COMMITTEE:

HEALTH & SOCIAL SERVICES

DATE:

3/22/16

I SUPPORT HB 328 - FOR ALL THE HEALTH REASONS MOST ARE AWARE OF. PERSONALLY I CANNOT TOLERATE SMOKY AREAS DUE TO BRONCHITIS CONDITIONS AND ALLERGIC REACTION TO SMOKE.

I VIEW SMOKING IN THE PRESENCE OF CHILDREN - AND ANIMALS AS PHYSICAL ABUSE - SUCH AS IN A VEHICLE OR IN HOMES OR CONFINED AREAS.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR TIME
Marion Nelson

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WRITTEN TESTIMONY

NAME: Jenny Olendorff
REPRESENTING: Self
BILL # or SUBJECT: HB 328
COMMITTEE: HHSS **DATE:** 3-22-16

Good afternoon,

I am Jenny Olendorff and I live and work in Soldotna.

I thank Rep. Talerico for introducing HB 328 and I ask that you pass this bill from this committee. Singing this bill into law will protect all Alaska workers from exposure to secondhand smoke and secondhand emissions from e-cigarettes.

For years, I worked in an office in a mall where cigarette smoke from the adjoining business seeped in through the walls, the vents and even the outlets. We begged the business next door to have their employees and customers smoke outside, away from the air intake and doorways but they would not do it. After realizing that the landlord wasn't going to take action, we finally gave up after 7 years and found smoke-free office space across town.

Employers and building owners DO NOT have the right to expose their employees or customers to toxic chemicals of any kind. Secondhand smoke is no different than any other workplace hazard against which we have laws to protect us. We protect restaurant patrons from food borne illnesses by passing cleanliness laws. When we learned about the danger of exposure to asbestos, we mandated that buildings be renovated to protect those who worked within whose walls.

PLEASE, in the name of public health, protect Alaskan workers from secondhand smoke and aerosol in the workplace by passing HB 328.

Thank you for all of your hard work.

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WRITTEN TESTIMONY

NAME: Joseph W. Yourkoski
REPRESENTING: American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network
BILL # or SUBJECT: HB328
COMMITTEE: Health and Social Services DATE: 3-22-16

My name is Joseph Yourkoski. I am 14 years old and attend the 8th grade at Niliski Middle Highschool. I am writing to you on behalf of the American Cancer Society Action Network. This bill means a lot to me because I myself am a cancer survivor. The type of cancer I was diagnosed with was not due to smoking or second hand smoke. However I still have first hand knowledge of how awful, painful, expensive, and excruciatingly long cancer can be. This bill will eliminate smoking in the work place. It will allow for someone to not have to choose between a pay check and their ~~chance of~~ health. If there is any possibility of a person decreasing their chance of going through what I had to, then that possibility must become reality. This bill is about not smoking any cigarettes, including E-cigarettes, in the workplace. A person's right to smoke ends at my nose. Please help promote a healthier work place for all Alaskans. This bill is too important to pass up. Thank you.

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WRITTEN TESTIMONY

NAME: Zachary Stockton
 REPRESENTING: Self
 BILL # or SUBJECT: ~~328~~ HB 328
 COMMITTEE: HSS DATE: 3/22/16

Hello my name is Zachary Stockton I go to Kenai Contra high School and I am a part of Trans against tobacco use, I have taken time to come voice my opinion because I believe this is an important topic, growing up in this time frame I have gotten to see the impacts of second-hand smoke, I feel that my and future generations should not have to be concerned about potential health risks resulting from second hand smoke in the workplace, while I understand this might cause less revenue for certain businesses for a short time after, I think we should look at the bigger picture and see that secondhand smoke has been proven to cause illnesses such as heart disease and Lung Cancer and kills 53,800 people a year from secondhand smoke, I have grown up in a tobacco free school system and into a tobacco free collage I feel this should not change because of where I would like to work, I also feel that anyone should be able to take away my right to breathe clean air and to protect my self from secondhand smoke. I also know this will not completely solve the issue of secondhand smoke but I feel this will protect many people from second-hand smoke. Also I would like to let you know there is many other students who would like to come voice their opinion but cannot because of sports and other after-school activities.

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WRITTEN TESTIMONY

NAME:

Megan Sitta

REPRESENTING:

Myself

BILL # or SUBJECT:

328

COMMITTEE:

HHSS

DATE: 03/22/2016

Good Afternoon, my name is Megan Sitta, I live in Soboltna and I'm a student athlete at Soboltna High School. I'm testifying today in favor of House Bill 328. The Kenai Peninsula Borough School District has a 100% tobacco-free policy for all school campuses. When I graduate from high school, I expect to attend a smokefree university. When I graduate from college, I expect to work in a smokefree workplace. I've personally witnessed friends and fellow athletes receive college offers to play sports and have that offer taken away due to the effects of tobacco use because those kids were raised in households that did not encourage healthy environments and did not discourage tobacco use at a young age. Please join the 30 other states that have comprehensive smoke free workplace laws. Thank You.

Megan Sitta