

Taneeka Hansen

From: Walton <jessiw Walton@hotmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, March 23, 2016 3:26 PM
To: House Health and Social Services
Subject: Oppose HB328

Good afternoon Chair and members of the committee,

My name is Jessi Walton. I'm from Fairbanks AK. I'm writing to oppose Hb328! I work for people with disabilities in their home and in the community. I've been in this field since 2007. This bill tells my client's mom that she can't vape or smoke in her garage ever, because I work there. That's a privacy problem!

This bill tells the person who lives in a group home setting who pays his rent and is blind he can smoke outside, but now has to be 20 feet away! This person needs help walking from the vehicle to his house door in the winter and you want him to walk 20 feet away? As a health care worker I have to promote independence as often as possible. Now this blind individual needs a staff to walk him 20 feet away and stand there with him and hope another individual doesn't need that staff's assistance while he's outside. I know you've met with many of these people over the years, because they've taken the time to travel to Juneau! This also imposes extra work hazards. A fellow co worker was assisting an individual walking on ice and the individual lost his balance and brought down the staff. The staff needed to get surgery because of this incident. We all know health care has a high turn over rate and we know that when things aren't consistent we back track. I'm asking that you remove residences from HB328

What about the senior citizens who have paid off their mortgages and now need someone to come in and help where they need it?

What about the person who's in hospice care and is bed ridden, because they are about to die any day now? This bill means they can't smoke or vape before they die! As a health care worker I know I'm going into someone's home, THEIR CASTLE!

This bill goes against our constitution and dictates what people can and can't do in their home.

I'll remind you: Article 12 of human rights says,

"No one shall be subjected to arbitrary interference with his privacy, family, home or correspondence, nor to attacks upon his honour and reputation. Everyone has the right to the protection of the law against such interference or attacks."

I've been vaping since Dec 2013 when I received my first starter kit for Christmas from my boyfriend's mom, who is a nurse practitioner. I started smoking combustible cigarettes when I was 13. I've noticed differences since I switched to this healthier alternative. I have energy to run and play with my daughter, as a matter of fact we race each other often and I can keep up with her! I've been to Zumba classes to help loose weight and I don't hack or feel a need to have a cigarette like I use to, getting the snow machine unstuck is easier now too! I no longer stink like an ashtray and food tastes so different now (it's great)! I'm not eating more just to cover the smoke taste in my mouth. I started at 12mg in a protank. I now have a few different set ups and I'm on 3mg! 3mg is lowest nicotine level beside 0mg (zero nicotine). Although I can mix a 3mg with a 0mg and get 1.5mg. It's amazing the harm reduction that I have done for my body and wouldn't have been able to without being introduced to vaping. I've tried chantix, gum and patches. I often found myself with nasty cigarette in my hand and patch on my arm. The patch was itchy, the gum tastes horrible and the way the chantix made me feel was horrible, nausea all the time, the dreams were so intense, I withdrew myself from being around people. Chantix can also cause suicidal thoughts, increased heart rate, depression, changes in mood and thinking, anxiety, panic, aggression, anger, mania, abnormal sensations, hallucinations paranoia and confusion and many other more. None of that is healthy, but is approved by the FDA. Chantix is also banned by the FAA and the military! My boyfriend opened his own store in Fairbanks, AK, because we couldn't find any e liquid or replacement coils for our new devices. We have met so many wonderful people who wanted quit smoking combustible cigarettes for their them selves and their family. So many vaping success stories start with "I have tried many

FDA approved ways and nothing worked!" Many of our military customers who have switched to vaping have reported their PT scores have improved! Unlike the internet, we card everyone! Vape shops are the first defense to underage vaping. Vape shops educate customers in battery safety and building safe coils. Dedicated vape shops carry reputable e liquids! They can tell you everything about the e-liquid and the company they order from! There are many reputable shops around Alaska, everyone is invited to come into a local vape shop or give them a call to become more familiar with vape products and to see what the industry is all about. We are here to educate, support, and offer guidance to all who look for a healthier alternative!

The vaping community is very close knit in Alaska! We support a tobacco free lifestyle! We encourage getting healthy and active again! We celebrate when someone has quit vaping! I'm asking you respectfully to remove vape shops and home residences from HB328! I wouldn't be where I am today without the help of my community!

Thank you for your time

Jessi Walton

Fairbanks, AK

Taneeka Hansen

From: tjoren02@gmail.com
Sent: Wednesday, March 23, 2016 11:00 AM
To: House Health and Social Services
Subject: Oppose HB328

I oppose HB328. I have been tobacco free for 2 months because of vaping. Vaping makes me feel 100% better then when I was smoking. I hate the smell of cigarettes and love vaping. Vaping doesn't make my clothes smell and doesn't harm anyone around me. Being able to vape inside vape shops is something that needs to be allowed since it is not like cigarette second hand smoke at all. I hope you think of all the health factors and benefits by switching to Vaping. Its either cigarette smoke that's bad for everyone or vape which doesn't harm anyone.

Thank you,

Tj Oren

Sent from my LG V10, an AT&T 4G LTE smartphone

Taneeka Hansen

From: Randy Rogers <labdad32@hotmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 22, 2016 8:16 PM
To: House Health and Social Services
Subject: HB328

Please support HB328 as "Vaping" appears no safer to second hand than smoking. Thank you.

Randy Rogers
Soldotna

Sent by Lilly and Rylan's Campa

Taneeka Hansen

From: Robert Burns <levi.side.burns@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, March 23, 2016 8:43 AM
To: House Health and Social Services
Subject: Oppose HB328

Dear, Alaska Legislator

Vaping has changed my life. I have quit smoking cigarettes for 10 months now because of vaping. I use to smoke 2 packs a day. Now none.

I request that we don't take away the right to vape in public places. It's harmless vapors not chemically filled smoke.

Thank you

Taneeka Hansen

From: Kenneth Martin <vapememore@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 22, 2016 8:53 PM
To: House Health and Social Services
Subject: HB328

It is no longer a speculating game, vaping is saving lives. The current bill (HB328) as written is putting jobs and lives of Alaskans at risk. I would ask at this time for the wording reflect the facts, thereby exempting vape/vapor from this bill.

Those who visit any building (my home, vape stores) are in less danger than you would be walking down the street in a busy city.

When we stop to look around at family and friends who are fighting cancer or any respiratory illness one might think, this is insane. Tobacco is killing. The alternatives (pharmaceutical) are not working. Albert Einstein is widely credited with saying “The definition of insanity is doing the same thing over and over again, but expecting different results”. With that said why are we wasting time and money doing the same thing over again.

Vaping has had many studies done by many people. Independent studies (the ones I've read) show to be a far healthier alternative for nicotine delivery. Nicotine is not the danger, tobacco IS. Improving lives around us, health increase beyond my expectation, and seeing the happiness from the family's and their kids, I am grateful for your consideration into vaping.

HB328 would close stores, put people out of work, and have an adverse affect on Alaskans. Vaping in stores is what makes the business. Its like test driving a car before the purchase. You would not buy it without that test drive, why endanger and limit the lives that are being saved?, vape/vaping /vapor is exempt.

with respect, Kenneth Martin

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/e-cigarettes-around-95-less-harmful-than-tobacco-estimates-landmark-review>

Taneeka Hansen

From: Brian Roberts <broberts@knowndistro.com>
Sent: Wednesday, March 23, 2016 1:00 PM
To: House Health and Social Services
Subject: E-Cigarette Testimony

Dear Sir or Ma'am,

I current live in Boise, Idaho. I have been in the Vaping industry for 4 years now and I believe it is a huge mistake to ban vaping.

I Started smoking while deployed to Iraq in 2002 serving in the United States Air Force. Back then smoking was a unhealthy habit that was encouraged to spawn unity among soldiers. I quickly jumped up to 2 or more packs of cigarettes a day.

In 2012 I converted to vaping. I had tried the patch, chewing gums from well known brands and even some of the top drugs from pharmaceutical companies claiming to help people quit when in fact caused more deaths from those drugs than vaping since its inception. There is not one case of someone dying from vaping.

What Government officials have done in Alaska and are proposing to do is a direct violation of our human rights. You allow big pharmaceutical companies to hand out drugs that cause complications and even death. You know the effects of those drugs but approve them. Vaping is shown as the most successful form of quitting traditional tobacco and you attempt to ban it.

Your Job, as a elected official is to protect the publics well being and this is not what is happening. You are only going to cause more people to die from pharmaceutical drugs because it makes you money.

I helped train and open two vape shops in Anchorage, Alaska. Everyday i had people that had switched tell me how much better they feel, how vaping successfully helped them quit and even had many people in tears because we helped save a life.

The United Kingdom has openly told their country that vaping is in fact NOT smoking, and it is 95% healthier and more effective than any form of cessation device ever created.

Please, educate yourself and focus on saving lives with vaping instead of banning a life saving device.

Thank You,

Brian Roberts

Taneeka Hansen

From: Shawn Michlitsch <shawny.michlitsch@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, March 23, 2016 4:12 PM
To: House Health and Social Services
Subject: Opposing HB328

Please do not pass the house bill 328 with the vape language that is in it. Vape shops help educate people, and are a source of knowledge and experience to help me stay away from tobacco. I emlore you to look to the science behind vaping! Voter of kenai peninsula

Taneeka Hansen

From: Rebecca Collins <spotlight2k@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, March 23, 2016 10:52 AM
To: House Health and Social Services
Subject: HB 328

I am an adult in Alaska, age 19 or older, and I oppose HB328.

I am writing to urge you to oppose HB 328. This legislation would include smoke-free vapor products (e-cigarettes) in Alaska's smoke-free law.

Ostensibly, smoking laws are enacted to protect employees from the harm of secondhand smoke. But, smoke-free 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. A comprehensive review conducted by Dr. Igor Burstyn of Drexel University School of Public Health (biomedcentral.com, 1471-2458/14/18) examined over 9,000 observations of e-cigarette liquid and vapor and found "no apparent concern" for bystanders exposed to e-cigarette vapor. This is true even under "worst case" assumptions about exposure. Furthermore, a groundbreaking review by the UK Department of Health's Public Health England concluded that there was no material risk to bystanders from vapor products.

Many smokers who initially choose to use e-cigarettes just where smoking is prohibited go on to quit smoking conventional cigarettes completely. This is known as "accidental quitting." Prohibiting e-cigarette use in public spaces completely eliminates that incentive to even try e-cigarettes. Unfortunately, the health risks of every one smoker who doesn't quit because vaping is prohibited (and the risks to the children and others who live with them) cumulatively outweigh any good done by eliminating the minuscule exposures to even hundreds of bystanders in public spaces.

There no genuine public health reason to prohibit e-cigarette use in public spaces. The benefits of allowing smokers to use e-cigarettes in public outweigh the low risks of insignificant exposures to bystanders. Allowing e-cigarettes to be used in public spaces will actually improve public health by inspiring other smokers to switch and reduce their health risks by an estimated 99%. Moreover, private businesses in Alaska are already establishing their own policies. They should keep the right to set their own policy since there is no proven health threat to bystanders.

Some have expressed a fear about these products acting as a "gateway" to traditional cigarettes for youth. But, there is no evidence to suggest this is happening. Research actually shows it is unlikely to happen to any significant extent. Teen smoking rates are at their lowest point since smoking became popular and continue to drop. But, there are adults who will continue to smoke until they die unless we promote effective alternatives that they can enjoy.

I urge you to oppose HB 328. It is imperative that existing adult smokers become aware of all the alternatives to smoking that are currently available. It is vital that access to these products remains unimpeded.

I look forward to your response on this issue. I, along with my fellow members of CASAA (Consumer Advocates for Smoke-free Alternatives Association), thank you for considering my comments and hope you will oppose misguided attempts to limit adult use of low-risk, smoke-free e-cigarettes.

Sincerely,
Rebecca Collin

Taneeka Hansen

From: Mindy Payne <mindyfishes@yahoo.com>
Sent: Wednesday, March 23, 2016 8:31 AM
To: House Health and Social Services
Subject: House bill 328

Good morning,

My name is Mindy Payne and I'm emailing you to inform you of my support of house bill 328. As a mother of three small children, I do not want them exposed to harmful breathing conditions including vaping. I believe smokers and vapors should take it outside.

Thank you for your time,

Mindy Payne

Kenai, AK

907-252-8534