

Taneeka Hansen

From: Thea Agnew Bemben <thea@agnewbeck.com>
Sent: Wednesday, March 30, 2016 11:18 AM
To: Rep. Adam Wool; Rep. Liz Vazquez; Rep. Neal Foster; Rep. Louise Stutes; Rep. David Talerico; Rep. Geran Tarr; Rep. Paul Seaton
Subject: Please support HB 328 with no exceptions for e-cigarette shops
Categories: Taneeka

Dear Members of the House Health and Social Services Committee,

I write to urge your support for protecting clean indoor air in all work places for all Alaskans, and to urge you not to allow exceptions for e-cigarette shops or marijuana smoking. I just spoke with Thatcher, Representative Tarr's aide on this topic, but I also wanted to share this with you all. I give you two examples of why clean indoor air must be protected for all Alaskans, without exceptions: my business leases an office space in a downtown building that is now located over a restaurant. While we all love bacon and pizza as much as anyone, the smell of the cooking from below has greatly impacted our work space. Even with extensive efforts from the building owner, there is no way to prevent the smells from coming up into our workplace. If e-cigarette vaporizing or marijuana smoking is allowed indoors, we could be subject to something much more harmful to our work environment than bacon and pizza fumes. As a business owner, I pay about \$9,000 per month for lease and last year put about \$70,000 into leasehold improvements into our space. My business interest must be protected by the State, by not allowing harmful off-site effects of other businesses to impede my business. This is the same regulatory protection that any other business or industry is subject to. Example #2: my son goes to guitar lessons in an office building in south Anchorage. A "vaping" store opened in the downstairs space and now the entire building is filled with sickly, toxic, cherry scented fumes. Being there for 30 minutes a week gives me a headache. If I had rented an office space in that building for business operations, I would be suing the owner for allowing the fumes to make the business space uninhabitable. This is an off-site impact that must be regulated by the State to protect people who have leases in commercial spaces where the air is a commonly used resource.

Indoor smoking and vaping are NOT compatible with thriving business and public spaces in our communities. Marijuana smoke is smoke and is harmful and intoxicating. E-cigarettes spew the same chemicals as tobacco smoke, minus the carbon monoxide and tar. Please stand up for the rights of all Alaskans to freely use the spaces and the clean air we have paid for in our workplaces. Thank you for your consideration,

Thea

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