

TESTIMONY OF OFFICER ALEX MONICO
BILL 56-39
POSSESSION OF TOBACCO BY A MINOR

EACH YEAR, I HAVE LAW ENFORCEMENT LEGAL UPDATE TRAINING AND ALWAYS WONDERED WHY THERE IS NO LAW FOR "POSSESSION OF TOBACCO BY A MINOR". MANY TIMES, I HAVE PONDERED OVER HOW MANY LIVES COULD BE SAVED IF SUCH A BILL COULD BE PASSED. I FIGURED IN 2004/2005 PUBLIC ACT 05-218 WAS PASSED. THIS WAS ABOUT PROHIBITING TRANSPORTATION OF A DOG IN THE REARWARD COMPARTMENT OF A PICKUP TRUCK UNLESS DOG IS SECURED IN A CAGE OR OTHERWISE PROTECTED OR SECURED FROM BEING THROWN, FALL OUT OR JUMP. THIS IS NICE. I'M ALL FOR SAVING DOGS. NOW LETS SAVE THE CHILDREN.

THIS MORNING, AT THE AVON MIDDLE SCHOOL, I TAUGHT A LESSON ON TOBACCO USE. IT'S KIND OF DISHEARTENING WHEN A STUDENT ASKS THE QUESTION, "HOW OLD DO YOU HAVE TO BE TO SMOKE"? I REALLY WANT TO LIE BUT I HAVE TO RESPOND, "ANY AGE". THIS REALLY TROUBLES ME!

BEING A POLICE OFFICER IN AVON, I HAVE NOTICED HOW CONCERNED WE ARE ABOUT PEOPLES' LIVES. ESPECIALLY, TRAVELING ON AVON MOUNTAIN. TO SAVE A FEW LIVES, ACTION HAS BEEN TAKEN AND RIGHTFULLY SO.

WHY ISN'T SOMETHING BEING DONE TO SAVE THE LIVES OF THOUSANDS, IF NOT MILLIONS OF PEOPLE RIGHT HERE IN CONNECTICUT WHO WILL DIE PREMATURELY FROM SMOKING-RELATED DISEASES? AS LEADERS, WE SHOULD BE DOING EVERYTHING IN OUR POWER TO ENCOURAGE CHILDREN NOT TO SMOKE.

IT'S THE RIGHT CHOICE TO PASS THIS BILL, MAKING "POSSESSION OF TOBACCO BY A MINOR" ILLEGAL IN THE STATE OF CONNECTICUT.

I CAN ONLY PRAY THAT YOUR CHILD OR GRANDCHILD DOESN'T DIE PREMATURELY WHEN YOU COULD HAVE DONE SOMETHING ABOUT IT.