



State of Connecticut

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Public Health Committee
Public Hearing Testimony
Monday, February 26, 2007

Good Morning Senator Mary Ann Handley, Senator Gayle Slossberg, Senator Andrew Roraback, Representative Peggy Sayers, Representative Elizabeth Ritter, Representative Mary Ann Carson. I would like to thank you for bringing bill HB 5078, An Act Prohibiting The Possession Of Tobacco By Minors, for a public hearing today.

This bill serves many purposes. It closes a loophole in our current legislation which does not prohibit the possession of tobacco products by minors. It sends a clear, distinct and reinforcing message that the dangers of using tobacco products are real and that a prolonged delay in trying this product will result in less chances of addiction. While some may question the need for a twenty five dollar fine, I would point out that the fine for distributing, selling or transferring tobacco products (a single cigarette) is \$200.00. Police may not necessarily fine the youths but will now be able to seize the product as contraband and possibly notify parents regarding their children's activities. I ask the committee in its favorable vote