

Testimony of Thomas Delorme, Foxwoods Employee

12 Marshall Street, Willimantic, CT

Senator Handley, Representative Sayers and Members of the Public Health Committee. My name is Tom Delorme. I started working at Foxwoods nine months after it opened and have worked there for 15 years.

I am here today to ask you to support Senate Bill 419.

I have never smoked and yet since October 1995 - about the time I started working at Foxwoods - I developed respiratory symptoms. Today I have multiple respiratory and heart conditions that require ongoing medical attention. I have a persistently raspy voice. I need to use inhalers regularly and I often have a hard time breathing. If I could work in a place where the air was cleaner, I feel like I could be healthier.

I have attached to my testimony, letters to you from my doctors. Dr. Steven Powell, my pulmonary doctor states that I "suffer from asthma and congestive heart failure and have had pneumonia 5 times in the past." He also states that he believes cigarette smoke will exacerbate and worsen my conditions and be harmful to my health.

My primary care doctor, Dr. Morton Glasser, has written a letter to you on my behalf, discussing my asthma diagnosis in August of 1996 at which time I was put on 2 different inhalers - Proventil and Beclovent. Since that time, I have been on Cipro for pneumonia and ended up in the emergency room for an acute cough and sinus infection.

In summary, Dr. Glasser states "It is my professional opinion that second hand smoke in any workplace is definitely detrimental to all employees whether or not they smoke. For the health of everyone, it would be better to have a smoke free environment".

This is my story, but there are many more just like it and worse. I am a casino dealer, this is what I do. I can't just pick up and go anywhere and get another job. I want to do this job, but I don't know how much longer I can continue to fight for my health when I have to work in such an unhealthy environment.

Each day I am exposed to second hand smoke will only worsen my condition and increase the risk for others. I ask this committee and the rest of the General Assembly, to act on this serious health threat with a sense of urgency. Please help me and my co-workers to have a safer and healthier place to work.

Thank you.

PULMONARY PHYSICIANS OF NORWICH, P.C.

Steven L. Powell, M.D. Donna M. Romito, D.O.
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February 25, 2008

RE: DeLorme, Thomas

To Whom It May Concern

Mr. Thomas DeLorme suffers from asthma and congestive heart failure. He has had pneumonia five times in the past. I understand he works at the Foxwoods Casino, where he is exposed to significant cigarette smoke. I believe that the cigarette smoke will exacerbate and worsen these conditions and may be harmful to his health.

Sincerely,



Steven L. Powell, M.D.
SI Page#

MORTON GLASSER, M.D., F.A.A.F.P.
99 MANSFIELD AVENUE
WILLIMANTIC, CT 06226
860-423-6337

February 19, 2008

To Whom It May Concern:

Mr. Thomas Delorme has been my patient since 11/27/70. He started having respiratory symptoms in October 1995. He experienced persistent coughing with difficulty in breathing. He was put on Prednisone therapy on 1/10/96. His return visit on 1/26/96 was still positive for persistent cough. He was put on an antibiotic. As of 8/30/96 he was still coughing and had been on amoxicillin for four weeks but it was not helpful. He was diagnosed with asthma and put on two different inhalers; Proventil and Beclovent. In March 1998 he was still having difficulty with the atmosphere in Foxwoods Casino aggravating his asthma. In February 2001 he was put on Cipro for possible pneumonia. Then in May of 2001 he was seen in the Emergency Department of Windham Hospital with an acute cough and an acute sinus infection. He experienced shortness of breath upon coughing. He also stated he was coughing all night long.

Mr. Delorme saw Dr. Powell, a pulmonologist in Norwich who told him his asthma was due to second hand smoke within the Casino. He has never been a smoker. He is currently on a third inhaler, Flovent. Mr. Delorme has been at Foxwoods for 15 years.

It is my professional opinion that second hand smoke in any workplace is definitely detrimental to all employees whether or not they smoke. For the health of everyone it would be better to have a smoke free environment.

Yours truly,



Morton Glasser, M.D.

