

February 24, 2009

To: Senator Harris, Representative Ritter and Members of the Public Health Committee

From: Brian Morley, 16 year table games dealer at Foxwoods

Re: PB 5608 AAC The Issuance of Liquor Permits to Casinos that Permit Smoking in the Casino

Good afternoon, my name is Brian Morley and I have worked at Foxwoods for 16 years as a table games dealer.

Proposed Bill 5608 does not go nearly far enough in protecting my health at work. I am here today to urge you to adopt the substitute language presented by the Attorney General today.

I believe this language is an appropriate compromise that leads to a full ban in 3 years. While myself and my fellow workers would rather see a total ban on smoking right now, we have agreed that this substitute language moves us appropriately in that direction.

People have asked me why I continue to work at Foxwoods despite the smoking and the health consequences to my body. I work here because I have a family to support.

Eight years ago my wife was in a very bad car accident and as a result is disabled, cannot drive and has trouble taking care of herself. Her hip was shattered, it has been rebuilt once, replaced twice and is still unable. As a result I spend a lot of my time when not working taking care of her.

In the past 8 years she has been in the hospital 8 times. Fortunately, one of those times was for the birth of our son Steven who was born with Downs Syndrome in December 2005.

I work because I need to make a living wage and because of my wife and son's disabilities, it would be hard to get them health insurance at another place of employment due to pre-existing conditions and insurability.

So I work through the clouds of smoke and hope that someday you or this employer will do the right thing and allow me to go to work in a safe and healthy environment.

Thank you.