

**Testimony of the American Lung Association in Connecticut in
Support of Raised Senate Bill No. 264, An Act Prohibiting
Smoking in Licensed Child Care Facilities**

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Public Health Committee
Room 3000, Legislative Office Building
Hartford, CT 06106

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

Thank you for the opportunity to address you today. My name is Dawn Mays-Hardy and I serve as the Connecticut Director of Health Promotion and Public Policy for the American Lung Association. The American Lung Association in Connecticut wishes to be recorded in strong support of Raised Bill No. 264, An Act Prohibiting Smoking in Licensed Child Care Facilities.

The State of Connecticut is a leader in protecting children, families and workers from environmental tobacco smoke (ETS). However, there have been critical oversights in policy development and implementation regarding smoking restrictions in public places and workplaces. I am particularly saddened to address this issue because it confronts our inability to protect the most vulnerable, our children.

Children are even more at risk from environmental tobacco smoke (ETS) due to their growing lungs and higher respiration rate. Equally important, nearly 10% of children with asthma in Connecticut are at especially high risk.

If passed, this bill will move us forward in protecting the rights of children. The latest Surgeon General report found children are the only population group not to have seen significant progress in being protected from secondhand smoke. Secondhand smoke is a carcinogen with no known safe level of exposure. Research now indicates exposure to third hand smoke or by definition the toxins, odors, and residues that remain on clothes, furniture and hair long after the cigarette has been extinguished is extremely dangerous as well. Children receiving care in family environments are susceptible to both types of exposures. This toxic substance has no place in a child care facilities.



We value your deep commitment to advancing strong policies and urge you to support Raised Bill No. 264 promoting a tobacco-free child care facilities in Connecticut. Again, thank you for this opportunity.

Dawn Mays-Hardy, MS
CT Director Health Promotion and Public Policy
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