

To The Joint Committee on Public Health

Raised S.B. No. 264
Session Year 2010

My name is Gary R. Smart and I am the Manager of Special Projects and Clinical Support at Yale New Haven Hospital Department of Community Health. I am testifying on behalf of consideration bill 264 AN ACT PROHIBITING SMOKING IN LICENSED CHILD CARE FACILITIES due my role as manager of an outpatient asthma initiative for pediatric & adolescent patients. My staff person, a nurse with years of experience dealing with chronic and episodic asthma cases in the greater New Haven area has shared a number of reports of children suffering from asthma attacks with unknown/undefined triggers. We believe some of these triggers to have a link to second hand smoke. Data suggest that second hand smoke cannot be controlled through isolating the smoker in an adjacent room unless appropriate venting is in place. In addition, smoking parents or caregivers of children with asthmatic conditions will be inclined to continue smoking as they leave the day care facility in the company of the child. We would like to minimize exposure to asthma triggers at all levels, and if this law is enacted it reduce the recidivism rate pediatric patients entering through the emergency room for treatment and improve our success rate for treatment plan compliance on an outpatient basis.

Day care facilities are in no way safer for any non smoker being exposed to the harmful effects of second hand smoke than are restaurant patrons; which has resulted in a change of law for restaurant operators. I encourage the committee to consider this bill just as important to children in licensed child care facilities as previous laws have considered the welfare of adults in other public and private facilities

Thank you,

Gary R. Smart, MPA
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