

Memo to: Public Health Committee
RE: Proposed Bill No. 415

From: Ernest Judson
Vice Chairperson, Milford Board of Health
27 Sylvan Court
Milford, CT 06460

My name is Ernest Judson. I live at 27 Sylvan Court, Milford, Connecticut. I am a registered pharmacist and have worked in retail pharmacy in downtown Milford for more than 50 years. As a healthcare professional and board member of the Milford Health Department, I am against hookah lounges anywhere in the State of Connecticut.

I feel there are three major health concerns:

- 1) Smoking – Smoking has been banned in public buildings in the State. Hookahs are a loophole that needs to be closed. Every responsible citizen and legislator knows smoking is bad for your health, so why permit it?
- 2) Carbon Monoxide – Carbon Monoxide is an odorless, tasteless and colorless gas generated by incomplete combustion of coal or charcoal that are used in hookahs. A University of Florida professor in Tallahassee is currently doing a study on elevated levels of carbon monoxide in hookahs, after Fire Department personnel found near lethal levels in a hookah lounge. Ventilation I feel would be impossible as carbon monoxide is constantly being produced and any heating or cooling would go out the vents also. Mixing alcohol (usually sold in hookahs) with carbon monoxide is more lethal than the sum of the two dangers.
- 3) Sanitation – Sanitation of the pipes, tubing and bowls is not up to code at the hookah proposed in Milford, but as a hookah is not a restaurant, it is not enforceable.

Two other points:

- 1) Tolland, Connecticut, Planning & Zoning denied a hookah, citing concerns for the health, safety and welfare of its citizens. Should the State of Connecticut do less?
- 2) A hookah lounge in Fairfield, Connecticut has been cited for underage drinking and drug use per Fairfield Health Director.

Thank you for your consideration.