

**Testimony of the American Lung Association in Connecticut in
Support of Raised Senate Bill No. 884,
An Act Prohibiting Smoking in Private Clubs**

45 Ash St.
East Hartford, CT 06108
Tel: (860) 289-5401
Fax: (860) 289-5405

1-800-LUNG USA
lungne.org

Chair
David G. Hill, MD (Middlebury)

Vice Chair
Karen P. Conway, Esq. (S.
Glastonbury)

Secretary
Pamela Peck (Woodbury)

Fariba Alim-Marvasti (Glastonbury)

Craig S. Conoscenti, MD (Norwalk)

Theodore M. Doolittle, Esq. (W.
Hartford)

Thomas J. Godar, MD (Bloomfield)

Sonda Hunter (Meriden)

Fran M. Kochman (Old Saybrook)

Carol T. Krantz (Glastonbury)

Judith A. Levi (Rocky Hill)

Jack K. Plummer, PhD (Glastonbury)

Jane Z Reardon, MSN, RN (Granby)

Paula L. Richer (Wethersfield)

Hossein Sadeghi, MD (Stamford)

Eugene W. Skladnowski
(Wethersfield)

Regina Stankaitis, PHR
(Wethersfield)

Jeffrey T. Stein, CFP (Avon)

John Victory (Farmington)

John J. Votto, DO (New Britain)

February 9, 2011

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

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

I appreciate the opportunity to speak in strong support of Raised Senate Bill No. 884, An Act Prohibiting Smoking in Private Clubs. My name is Dawn Mays-Hardy and I serve as the Connecticut Director of Health Promotion and Public Policy for the American Lung Association.

Our reasons for supporting this bill are simple. First and foremost, smokefree environments save lives, whether in public or private venues. According to the latest United States Surgeon General's report, eliminating smoking in indoor spaces is the only way to protect nonsmokers from secondhand hand smoke.

Breathing in secondhand smoke is very similar to the toxic chemical composition inhaled by smokers and the deleterious health effects in a passive smoker are similar. By passing this proposal you will provide protection from secondhand smoke, a known cause of cancer. By passing this bill, it will reduce the risk of nonsmokers who are unnecessarily exposed to carcinogens, decreasing their chances of developing respiratory illnesses, heart attacks and decreasing the risk of developing cancer by 25-30%.

The medical and economic costs of delayed action on this bill will not only negatively impact nonsmokers but smokers as well. While the proposal is not designed to force smokers to quit, years of research have demonstrated that when indoor spaces are smoke free, more employees at that workplace quit smoking. This makes sense since over 70% of smokers report wanting to quit. Providing a smoke free environment is a significant motivator to help smokers be successful quitters.

We value your deep commitment to advancing strong policies that protect health and urge you to support Raised Bill No. 884 promoting smokefree private clubs in Connecticut. Again, thank you for this opportunity.

Dawn Mays-Hardy, MS
CT Director Health Promotion and Public Policy
American Lung Association in Connecticut