



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

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

I appreciate the opportunity to speak in support of ***Raised Bill No. 884, An Act Concerning Smoking in Private Clubs***. My name is Joni Czajkowski, Sr. Director of Government Relations serving the American Heart Association. On behalf of the American Heart Association and its network of volunteers, I would like to thank you for raising the issue of smoking in private clubs. The Association strongly supports this bill and I urge you to do the same.

Seven years ago, I sat before this same committee asking for support on what is now Connecticut's Smokefree Air Law. Under this law, smoking was banned in restaurants, cafes, taverns and in businesses with five or more employees. In order to garner support for this bill, anti-tobacco advocates collaborated with the opposition and strategically agreed to exempt private clubs with liquor permits issued prior to May 1, 2003. The time is now to amend this provision.

Quite simply, this bill will save lives and save money. I urge you to support Raised Bill No. 884, An Act Concerning Smoking in Private Clubs. Thank you.

Joni Czajkowski
Sr. Director of Government Relations
American Heart Association

*"Building healthier lives,
free of cardiovascular
diseases and stroke."*

Please remember the American Heart Association in your will.

