

*General Law Committee  
Public hearing  
Legislative Office Building  
Hartford, Connecticut  
March 6, 2012*

*I am Claire Phelan, a member of the Prevention Council in Milford. I would like to address the House Bill 5360 co-sponsored by our Milford Representative Kim Rose.*

*The intention of this bill is to regulate tobacco-related products.*

*This is very good and we are pleased that it has come before you.*

*Our concern is that the language is limited in scope and we are strongly recommending strengthening the bill.*

*Minors can go into any store selling tobacco equipment to purchase items such as pipes, bong, rolling papers, cigarette papers and bowls.*

*We are recommending the bill to include making it illegal to sell, give or deliver tobacco paraphernalia and misrepresentation of age to purchase these items by a minor.*

*Local retailers market these products to patrons as tobacco equipment, therefore we feel it should be treated as possessing tobacco.*

*Our young people identify these products to drug use not tobacco-related products and do not perceive the harm or risk involved.*

*The colorful design and marketing of the product appeals to our youth, and the displays are often located next to the gum and candy in local stores.*

*Thank you for your attention*

*Claire Phelan  
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