



American Lung Association  
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**Testimony of the American Lung Association in Connecticut in  
Raised House Bill No.5332, An Act Concerning Smoking in  
Public Buildings and the Exemption for Tobacco Bars**

March 7, 2012  
Public Health Committee  
Room 3000, Legislative Office Building  
Hartford, CT 06106

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

My name is Michelle Marichal and I serve as the Interim Director of Health Promotion and Public Policy at the American Lung Association (ALA) in Connecticut. The American Lung Association is a not-for-profit public health organization dedicated to fighting lung disease through research, education and public policy.

Smoking causes chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD, including chronic bronchitis and emphysema), coronary heart disease, a host of cancers including: lung, oral, throat, cervical, kidney, stomach, and pancreatic cancers, among many other diseases.

Secondhand smoke causes approximately 3,400 deaths from lung cancer and 22,700 to 69,600 deaths from heart disease each year. In order to protect those who choose not to smoke laws have been established and the American Lung Association has helped pass smoke-free air policies in Connecticut.

In 2003, the Clean Indoor Air Act prohibited smoking in restaurants and bars and created exemptions for correctional facilities, public housing, casinos, among others. The Clean Indoor Air Act also provided an exemption for tobacco bars with a permit for the sale of alcohol that were established before December 31, 2002 and generated 10% or more of its total annual gross income from the on-site sale of tobacco products.

HB 5332 has the intention of reducing smoking in public places by addressing the tobacco bar exemption. However, the language of the bill would allow new tobacco bars to open. The American Lung

Association opposes HB 5332 as it is written and would welcome the opportunity to develop language that addresses the intent of the bill.

We appreciate your on-going efforts to address tobacco use and secondhand smoke exposure and would also like to commend the restaurants and bars in Connecticut who have complied with the existing smokefree laws.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Michelle Marichal".

Michelle Marichal  
CT Interim Director, Health Promotion and Public Policy  
American Lung Association in Connecticut