

Student Essay Challenge

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Dear Representative Gregory Haddad,

Hello Mr. Haddad! I think there are so many things that could be changed in our world, but today I would like to focus on one. I've seen many articles published on Yahoo focusing on smoking with children in the car and, potentially, stopping people who do so.

I believe this is an excellent law to consider, knowing that anywhere from 50,000 to 440,000 non-smokers die each year from secondhand smoking. If it takes a policeman stopping a car with a child inside to wake people up, then I think we should provide this! No child should have to sit in the backseat of a smoker's vehicle. Imagine a newborn, or a toddler even, their whole life ahead of them, having it cut short because the person responsible for him doesn't care. I don't know about you, but I think that's just cruel! If we were to consider and use this proposal, it would work as a way for police officers on the job to pull over people with visible children in the car who are under 18. (The age could be lowered, but I believe if they aren't legally allowed to smoke until 18, they should not be around smoking until they're 18.)

It would also entail punishing recurring law-breakers with a court appearance. I'm not really certain what might go on at the hearing, but I do think that if they can't follow this specific law, there should be some consideration about if they are responsible enough to be raising a child. I also believe that many people in our community would support this. As the danger of cigarette

smoke awareness rises and people see how much just being around a smoker can affect your life, people may have a reason to change in their acts and control their actions around their children.

It may also help to hold a town hearing on the proposal to hear from other parents or children about their thoughts. In the town hearing you may go over the law and how it may work if carried out, discussing repercussions of people not following the law. If you find that many people support the act, which I'm sure you will, any additions regarding the safety of the children in the care of the smoker should be carefully considered and discussed. I hope that you've been able to agree with this and think about my proposal because, after all, what's more important than saving a life?

Yours truly,

Aden Abbatemarco