

Raised Bill S.B. No.990

AN ACT CONCERNING SMOKING POLICIES AND PROHIBITING SMOKING IN CERTAIN AREAS.

Electronic cigarettes are not tobacco cigarettes and should not be treated as such. Please do not let the word "cigarette" pervert your perception of what electronic cigarettes actually are. I know that CASAA has given you invaluable materials and I urge you to utilize them. I urge you not to treat this technology like smoking, to rush to legislation without justifications, without evidence. "It looks like smoking" is simply not good enough.

Some hospitals around the country have even started giving electronic cigarettes to their patients who smoke tobacco cigarettes. It is in-offensive enough for others to be able to do this and helps give patients the care they need as it elevates stress as opposed to countless patients who run out of the hospital as quick as they can to light up. The provisions suggested today will deny hospitals this valuable option. I suggest not banning their use in hospitals, but letting hospitals and other medical related fields decide if they want to utilize this option for their patients or not.

On a more personal note this technology made my home being smoke free possible. My mother and brother have both stopped smoking thanks to electronic cigarettes. My mother was a former 40 year smoker, I remember her trying everything to quit as a kid. I have been smoke-free over a year and a half. It began as wanting to jog but I couldn't even run a quarter of a mile. Today I can continuously jog 3 miles and for as long as I've been jogging, I've been vaping.

I know I speak for many when I say I earned my right to no longer smell like an ashtray. This legislation says I should, it says I'm a smoker when I'm not, it has disregard for my health. I don't want the 2nd hand smoke and neither do other vapers. This legislation says vape my smoke-free electronic cigarette with the smokers.

My suggestion is to be more reasonable in allowing certain businesses to address for themselves on their property if they want to deny or allow the use of electronic cigarettes. The problem I see that you may not is almost every time I've been to a bar or restaurant that allows me to vape, there's a smoker telling me how they tried patches, gum, Chantix made them bananas and they're scribbling electronic cigarette information on a napkin. By using my electronic cigarette in public it does help people, it shows others there's an alternative.

*Tanya Jackisch of Wallingford, CT*