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**American Lung Association
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Public Health Committee
Room 3000, Legislative Office Building
Hartford, CT 06106

**Testimony of the American Lung Association in Connecticut in Opposition
of Raised Senate Bill 990 An Act Concerning Smoking Policies and
Prohibiting Smoking in Certain Areas**

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

My name is Michelle Marichal and I serve as the Acting Director of Health Education
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.

The American Lung Association believes the intention of this bill is to reduce
secondhand smoke exposure through changes to the Clean Air Act. We support
deleting the exemption for smoking in workplaces with fewer than five employees
and removing this exemption is long overdue. We also support the definition of
smoking to include electronic cigarettes. However, this bill still allows private
workplaces to designate one or more smoking rooms in section 2 (c)1-3. The
American Lung Association would like to see all private workplace smoking rooms
completely eliminated. Smokefree environments save lives and prevent
unnecessary exposure to secondhand smoke. Secondhand smoke causes
approximately 3,400 deaths from lung cancer and 22,000 to 69,000 deaths from
heart disease each year.

In 2003, the Clean Indoor Air Act prohibited smoking in restaurants and bars and
created exemptions for correctional facilities, casinos, and workplaces with fewer
than five employees and allowed smoking rooms for private employers.
Nonsmokers will continue to be involuntarily exposed to carcinogens, increasing
their chances of developing respiratory illnesses, heart attacks and increased risk
of developing cancer if additional deletions are not included. Secondhand smoke is
a toxic chemical that does not belong in any workplace.

The Surgeon general report indicates a workplace free of environmental tobacco
smoke promotes a healthier workforce, protects employees and patrons from
secondhand smoke exposure, and reduces health, life disability and fire insurance
costs. We appreciate your on-going efforts to address tobacco use and secondhand
smoke exposure and urge you to oppose Senate Bill 990 as it is currently written.

Thank you,

Michelle Marichal
Acting Director, Health Education and Public Policy
American Lung Association in Connecticut