



AMERICAN LUNG ASSOCIATION®

Fighting for Air

American Lung Association
of the Northeast

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

February 28, 2014

Testimony before the Public Health Committee

Michelle Caul, Manager of Health Education

HB5284: An Act Prohibiting Smoking in Certain Areas of Railroad Stations

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

Thank you for the opportunity to address you today. My name is Michelle Caul and I serve as the Manager of Health Education 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 in Connecticut supports House Bill number 5284, An Act Prohibiting Smoking in Certain Areas of Railroad Stations. This bill would amend section 19a-342 of the general statutes to include any outdoor ticketing, boarding or platform area of a railroad station to prohibit smoking in those areas of a railroad station.

The American Lung Association supports legislation which would protect public health by eliminating exposure to secondhand smoke. Secondhand smoke is a mixture of the smoke given off by the burning end of a cigarette, pipe or cigar and the smoke exhaled from the lungs of smokers. This mixture contains more than 4000 chemical compounds, more than 40 of which are known to be cancer causing in humans or animals, and many of which are strong irritants, including formaldehyde, cyanide, carbon monoxide, ammonia and nicotine. There is no risk-free level of exposure to secondhand smoke. Furthermore, secondhand is a known asthma trigger and could cause a person with asthma to have an asthma attack.

Thank you for your consideration of this bill. Secondhand smoke has been linked to contributing to and causing disease and illness including asthma,

heart disease and respiratory tract infections. It is also know to worsen asthma conditions. The American Lung Association in Connecticut supports HB5284 and urges the committee to pass this bill.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Michelle Caul". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Michelle Caul
Manager, Health Education
American Lung Association in Connecticut