

Testimony for Public Hearing
Public Health Committee
March 10, 2015

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HB 5449- AN ACT PROHIBITING THE USE OF ELECTRONIC CIGARETTES IN THE SAME PLACES WHERE SMOKING IS PROHIBITED.

Ladies and Gentlemen of the committee, my name is Andrew Fischer and I have been smoke free for 15 months thanks to electronic cigarettes or personal vaporizers (PV's). I am writing in opposition to HB-5449 that would prevent me for continuing my road to the successful elimination of tobacco cigarettes.

Electronic cigarettes do not burn, there is no flame, and as such give off no smoke. I have been successful in part by being distancing myself from designated "smoking areas". In doing so I have avoided the second hand or side stream smoke from tobacco smokers. Side stream smoke is the unfiltered raw smoke that comes from the lit end of a cigarette when the individual is not taking a draw. This act would relegate me to these smoking areas and once again expose me to the harmful effects of tobacco smoke.

Personal vaporizers when used indoors do not contribute to an unhealthy environment like tobacco cigarettes. I refer to the study done on over 9,000 samples by Dr. Igor Burstyn of Drexel University School of Public Health (and published in a peer-reviewed journal earlier this year - <http://www.biomedcentral.com/1471-2458/14/18/abstract>). It's the unhealthy tobacco smoke that is the reason for the Clean Indoor Air act that prohibits indoor use. Electronic cigarettes should not be in this classification.

Being able to use PV's in buildings has also prevented me from getting sick and increased my work productivity. When I was a tobacco user I would have to go outside to smoke. Going in and out at all times of the year would cause me to get sick, miss work, get family members sick and decrease productivity.

There is no smoke in electronic cigarettes and as such they should not be classified as a tobacco product nor subject to the same restrictions. I urge all the committee members to go to WWW.CASAA.ORG and learn the truth behind this safer alternative to Smoking Tobacco.

Thank you for your consideration on the opposition of HB-5449

Sincerely,



Andrew Fischer