



**Connecticut State Medical Society**  
**Testimony in Support of House Bill 5449 An Act Prohibiting the Use of Electronic Cigarettes In**  
**The Same Places Where Smoking Is Prohibited**  
**Presented to the Public Health Committee**  
**March 11, 2015**

Senator Gerratana, Representative Ritter and members of the Public Health Committee, on behalf of the physicians and physicians in training of the Connecticut State Medical Society (CSMS) and the American College of Surgeons Connecticut Chapter (CTACS) thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony to you today in support of **House Bill 5449 An Act Prohibiting the Use of Electronic Cigarettes In The Same Places Where Smoking Is Prohibited**. We fully support this legislation before you today which amends the definition of smoking in state statute to include electronic cigarettes, thereby prohibiting the use of electronic cigarettes in the same settings as tobacco products.

Unfortunately, many people view electronic cigarettes as a safer alternative to both smoke and smokeless tobacco products. This is simply not true. Nicotine delivered electronically is just as addictive and damaging as nicotine inhaled or otherwise absorbed by means of traditional tobacco products. In addition, chemicals added to nicotine in electronic cigarettes to help create the inhaled vapor are known to be as harmful as the chemicals contained in smoke and smoke free tobacco. Further, the flavoring that is added, such as bubble gum, is designed to entice our children and youth to engage in smoking. While cigarette manufacturers in the 1990s used advertisements of attractive men and women, actors and sports stars, electronic cigarettes are using candy flavoring and sweet smelling vapor to attract children- creating addicts at even a younger age than ever before.

Physicians experience patients addicted to nicotine and its related health implications on a daily basis. They see the damage that is done by these products and understand the importance of taking every opportunity to protect our patients from this scourge. Banning tobacco products, but permitting a nicotine delivery system because it uses an electronically generated delivery system is not consistent with the goal of promoting healthy habits, improving the health and safety of our state or reducing cost of medical treatment, including nicotine addiction. Furthermore, allowing their use in public places creates the false impression that such products are not as harmful or addictive as tobacco. Physicians and society in general should not forsake any opportunity to protect our patients and citizens from exposure to harmful products, including nicotine. Prohibiting electronic cigarettes is a step in the right direction for our children, our patients and our society.