

March 4, 2015

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

Attn: Senator Gerratana, Representative Case and members of the Public Health Committee

Re: Testimony in **Support of Proposed Bill 5449** – *An Act Prohibiting The Use Of Electronic Cigarettes In The Same Places Where Smoking Is Prohibited*

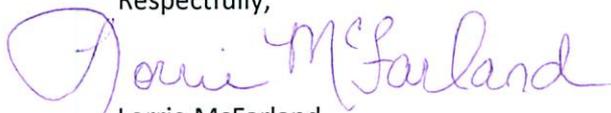
My name is Lorrie McFarland and I am the Prevention Coordinator of BHcare's Greater Valley Substance Abuse Action Council (VSAAC). VSAAC is also an active member of the CT Prevention Network (CPN). I am writing this testimony in support of Proposed Bill 5449 to prohibit the use of electronic cigarettes where smoking is prohibited.

I support this bill for the following reasons:

- As a prevention educator, I have encountered students as young as 12 years old who have purchased these devices on the web and then get caught using while at school
- Flavored "e-liquid" cartridges attract and addict young people who are misinformed about nicotine content
- Second-hand aerosol has been shown to contain particulate matter which can be inhaled into the lungs of both the user and the bystander

I have spent dozens of hours with hundreds of elementary school students educating them on the dangers of tobacco products. The availability of the e-cigarette in my community coupled with lax regulation, makes my work that much more difficult.

Respectfully,

  
Lorrie McFarland