



## State of Connecticut

### HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES STATE CAPITOL

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#### Testimony

### In Support Of H.B. 5449, An Act Prohibiting The Use Of Electronic Cigarettes In The Same Places Where Smoking Is Prohibited Public Health Committee March 11, 2015

Chairwoman Senator Gerratana, Chairman Representative Ritter, Ranking Member Senator Markley, Ranking Member Representative Srinivasan, and distinguished members of the Public Health Committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of HB 5449, AN ACT PROHIBITING THE USE OF ELECTRONIC CIGARETTES IN THE SAME PLACES WHERE SMOKING IS PROHIBITED.

The use of E-cigarettes is becoming increasingly popular among Connecticut's students. Currently, there are no regulations on the usage of E-cigarettes in educational facilities. The lack of regulation of E-cigarettes has caused schools and college campuses to foster an unhealthy atmosphere, which promotes drug use among Connecticut's youth. E-cigarettes have similar chemically and physiologically addictive properties, such as those of real cigarettes. Ultimately, there is a deviation from the health standards that should be highly valued within learning institutions.

I intend to present for your consideration the restrictions that currently exist on individuals who partake in smoking. No person may smoke in any building owned or leased by the State of Connecticut, in any area of a health care institution, within a school building, or within an establishment that holds a permit issued for the sale of alcoholic liquor. This law is in place for the protection of individuals exposed to second hand smoke and the harmful effects therein. HB 5449 would amend General Statute 19a-342 and would allow non-smokers to continue to be protected from carcinogenic inhalants. E-cigarettes should be included in the regulations restricting tobacco products on school grounds because of their potentially harmful effects and addictive properties.

This legislation is specifically important to the preservation of Connecticut students' health because of the harmful effects of inhaling chemical ridden smoke and potential for abuse. Nicotine from the aerosol of e-cigarettes can remain on surfaces for months, which contributes to inhalation, ingestion, or dermal exposure to carcinogens. Including e-cigarettes under General Statute 19a-342 will lower exposure to carcinogenic properties, and increase quality of life for current and future Connecticut residents.

Thank you and the Committee for this opportunity to testify and for your consideration of HB 5449.

Jay M. Case  
State Representative, 63<sup>rd</sup> District