

Testimony for Public Hearing
Public Health Committee
March 10, 2015

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HB-6283 - AN ACT REGULATING ELECTRONIC CIGARETTES.

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 to oppose HB-6283, which would prevent me from continuing down the road of eliminating all products that contain nicotine.

There is no smoke in electronic cigarettes! Since there is no smoke there is no cause for concern among the general population. A study by Dr. Igor Burstyn of Drexel University School of Public Health found "no apparent concern" for bystanders exposed to e-cigarette vapor, even under "worst case" assumptions about exposure. With this knowledge, the regulation of electronic cigarettes should be looked at from a different perspective and not categorized with the more harmful tobacco cigarette.

The product of using a PV, for the most part, is water vapor that simulates the exhalation of a cigarette. This simulation, along with the multitude of flavors, is what makes the transition to this safer alternative easier. I am currently using a bubble gum flavor where when I wean myself off the PV I plan on chewing the same. Bubble gum, although, is not the only flavor I use, I vary my flavors so that I don't become "dependant" on any one. There are only 4 ingredients in the liquid of a PV and one is added flavor. In essence, to eliminate all flavors would mean there would be no flavor at all. Without flavors I would not have been able to switch over to this safer alternative to tobacco.

While I agree that labels should be on the products, I believe they should be of a different nature than tobacco cigarettes. Tobacco cigarettes are far more dangerous and have concentrations of chemicals that are harmful. Most makers of e-liquid are already placing labels on their products that include items such as; "Not intended for sale to persons under 18", "This product contains nicotine and should be kept away from children" and the ingredients in the product. I feel this should continue but should be imposed at the Federal level so to standardize the format and contents. Placing labels that are not researched or backed by scientific study may cause others from switching to this safer alternative to cigarettes.

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-6283

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Andrew Fischer', written in a cursive style.

Andrew Fischer