

**Testimony Supporting Proposed Bill No. 6283:
An Act Regulating Electronic Cigarettes
And Bill No. 5449:
An Act Prohibiting the Use of Electronic Cigarettes in the Same Places where
Smoking is Prohibited**

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Senator Gerratana, Representative Ritter, and other distinguished members of the Public Health Committee:

I am a Connecticut resident and Masters student in Public Health at Yale University. During my time at Yale I have researched, written about, and debated the topic of electronic cigarettes thoroughly. Based on my experience and the wealth of research I have read, I strongly support Bill No. 6283, which would require electronic cigarettes to be defined as a tobacco product, be subject to the same smoke-free laws as cigarettes, be subject to the same marketing restrictions as cigarettes, be flavorless, be subject to standards for contaminants and strict quality control of manufacturing, carry labels disclosing the materials used in the electronic cigarettes and the sources of such materials, and carry warning labels on the health consequences of inhaling its contents. I also support Bill No. 5449, which would prohibit the smoking of electronic cigarettes in the same places where smoking is prohibited. These measures are necessary to protect the public health of Connecticut citizens.

While electronic cigarettes have been developed as a smoking cessation device, they are largely not marketed as such. The World Health Organization has claimed that there are no studies showing that the electronic cigarette is a safe and effective nicotine replacement therapy.¹ Furthermore, there is no evidence to confirm the safety of electronic cigarettes.² Among all of the alternative tobacco products, electronic cigarettes are the least regulated. They carry no warning labels can be sold to people of any age. As a result of this, many youth are able to gain access. Electronic cigarette use increased 2011-2012 among students in grades 6-12 from 3.3% to 6.8%. Furthermore, use of both e-cigarettes and regular cigarettes doubled from 0.8% to 1.6%.³ Not only are children using electronic cigarettes for the first time, they are starting and/or continuing use of tobacco cigarettes.

The tobacco solution used in electronic cigarettes contains toxic chemicals that are also found in antifreeze as well as several cancer-causing chemicals called

¹ <http://www.who.int/mediacentre/news/releases/2008/pr34/en/>

² <http://www.fda.gov/NewsEvents/PublicHealthFocus/ucm173146.htm>

³ <http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/mm6235a6.htm#fig>

nitrosamines.⁴ Little is known about the types or concentrations of chemicals, nicotine included, in electronic cigarettes, so it is imperative that disclosing of contents and quality control is enforced for electronic cigarettes. These toxins are released in the vapor of electronic cigarettes. While the health effects of inhaling the vapor second-hand has yet to be fully examined, there is enough reason to suspect based on the chemicals in electronic cigarettes to warrant these devices to be subject to the same smoking laws as tobacco cigarettes.

The number of calls to poison control centers involving electronic cigarette liquids containing nicotine rose from one per month in September 2010 to 215 per month in February 2014.⁵ More than half of these calls were due to electronic cigarette cartridge consumption by children under the age of 5. Perhaps these calls can be minimized with stricter quality control and manufacturing.

Passing this bill is imperative for the increased safety of youth and children as well as of-age consumers. By having electronic cigarettes present in traditional non-smoking environments, smoking runs the risk of becoming a normalized behavior while also promoting cigarette smoking. The best chance of risk reduction is to incorporate electronic cigarettes under traditional smoking laws.

Thank you for your time.

⁴ <http://www.cancer.net/navigating-cancer-care/prevention-and-healthy-living/tobacco-use/health-risks-waterpipes-smokeless-tobacco-and-e-cigarettes>

⁵ www.cdc.gov/media/releases/2014/p0403-e-cigarette-poison.html