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An Act Regulation Electronic Cigarettes

In opposition of Bill HB06283

Before Public Health Committee

March 10, 2015

I am writing to testify on the above listed proposed bill. I am writing in opposition of this bill. I believe this bill will ultimately: ruin vaping in the State of Connecticut, push possible vapor liquid sales to other states, add to the epidemic of smoking in the state and put a lot of people and business` out of work.

As you know, vaping in the state of Connecticut has grown immensely over the last year. I personally work in a vapor store and am a vapor myself. I see this bill ruining vaping in the state of Connecticut and causing many negative domino effects.

For one, if consumers cannot purchase e-juice (other wise known as vape liquid) in the state of CT they WILL purchase it some where else. By consumers purchasing liquid somewhere else your point for "public safety" is out the window. Vaping WILL go underground and onto the black market and in that case you have absolutely NO control over e-liquid manufactures and practices. Also, if consumers purchase their liquid out of state it merits the same problem. You will again have no control over how other states manufacture and sell their liquids. All while losing possible sales tax on liquids purchased in state.

Secondly, the state is currently generating revenue from employment taxes, property taxes and sales tax. If no one buys e-liquid in the state it will eventually close doors to vape shops within Connecticut, therefor, adding to the unemployment rate, eliminating tax revenue and eliminating twenty or so small business in the state.

I personally vape and quit smoking because I vape. I can breath better and I feel all around healthier. I work in a vape and witness positive experiences and happier people on a daily basis. My customers who have been smoking for 30 plus years cant believe the positive effects vaping has had on their lives and I hear stories day after day.

As a vape store manager I do not want to loose my job. I have a family to support and I love what I do. I ask you to reconsider your attack on vaping and educate yourselves on the positive effects vaping brings to people's lives. I would be heartbroken to see over 2,000 people that I've personally helped quit smoking go back to buying cigarettes and again ruining their health. I believe with education on the topic and regulations we could make vaping a positive for the state and its residents.

In order to make vaping safe for the community and profitable for the state I propose we go about this bill another way. Instead of classifying vaping under tobacco law (which is a whole other subject) why not ask for a license in order to regulate and sell vape liquid. Any business selling high grade vape liquid surely would not oppose obtaining a license to sell liquids and follow a strict set of guidelines.

In conclusion, this bill is taking the wrong approach to bring revenue into the state. We need to put our heads on correctly, consider the facts about vaping, think about cause and effect, not jump into a bill that could potentially shut down business and tax revenue in the state and come up with a solution that will insure the safety of our residents, security of our small business and satisfy the money issues at hand. And yes, we know this is all about money. Rep. Godfrey was intelligent enough to say so and express his lack of concern for vapors in his meeting last week with a few of our local shop owners. However, we're willing to come up with a plan to help the state with money, keep our local shops in business and insure the safety of the residents of Connecticut.

Thank you

Respectfully Yours,

Erika Baldelli