



State of Connecticut
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
STATE CAPITOL
HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT 06106-1591

REPRESENTATIVE CATHERINE F. ABERCROMBIE
EIGHTY-THIRD DISTRICT

64 Parker Street
Meriden, CT 06450
CAPITOL: 860-240-8585
TOLL FREE: 1-800-842-8267
E-MAIL: Catherine.Abercrombie@cga.ct.gov

CHAIR
HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE

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APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE
INSURANCE & REAL ESTATE COMMITTEE

Testimony Submitted by State Representative Catherine Abercrombie, 83rd District
Before the Public Health Committee - March 11, 2015

Re: H.B 6283 AN ACT REGULATING ELECTRONIC CIGARETTES

Good Morning Chairwoman Gerratana, Chairwoman Ritter, and distinguished members of the Public Health Committee.

I am writing in support of House Bill 6283, An Act Concerning Regulating Electronic Cigarettes.

It is common knowledge that smoking is directly linked to dangerous health risks to both smokers and nonsmokers that are exposed to second-hand smoke.

Laws have been passed to prohibit smoking in many public areas to protect nonsmokers. Campaigns to inform people about the health risks associated with smoking, combined with these limitations on public smoking have helped many to make the decision to give up cigarettes.

As the tobacco market started declining, the industry has looked for new ways to maintain profits in the face of had to adjust to new regulations in order to stay alive. As electronic cigarettes entered the market, people were now allowed to smoke in public places, inside and out. The effects of an electronic cigarette for a smoker are the same as smoking a regular cigarette, if not worse since the research done is very limited and not as thorough.

Since the electronic cigarettes became an option our progress towards eliminating the health risk of smoking has been decreasing dramatically.

This bill would give our progress a second chance and would recognize the electronic cigarette as a regular cigarette with the same harmful health risks. It will stop the people from viewing it as a healthier alternative which is a misleading interpretation and will allow the Department of Public Health to take the appropriate regulations.

I sincerely hope you will vote favorably on this vital legislation and substantially improve the lives of many smokers and nonsmokers.