



Public Health Committee
John Bailey, Government Relations Director
American Heart Association
March 11, 2015

House Bill 6285 An Act Concerning Smoking in Motor Vehicles

I would like to thank Chairwoman Gerratana and Chairman Ritter and the Committee for providing me with the opportunity to comment on House Bill 6285 An Act Concerning Smoking in Motor Vehicles.

The American Heart Association commends the goals of the legislation and supports the intention of reducing the exposure of youths to secondhand smoke. As we all know, smokers aren't the only ones affected by tobacco smoke. Secondhand smoke is a serious health hazard for nonsmokers, especially children.

Secondhand tobacco smoke contributes to about 34,000 premature heart disease deaths and 7,300 lung cancer deaths. Studies show that the risk of developing heart disease is about 25-30 percent higher among people exposed to environmental tobacco smoke at home or work. Secondhand smoke promotes illness, too. Children of smokers have many more respiratory infections than do children of nonsmokers.

There are more than 5,000 chemical components found in cigarette smoke and hundreds of them are harmful to human health, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Here are a few examples:

- 1,3-Butadiene is a chemical used to manufacture rubber. It is considered to be a carcinogenic chemical that can cause certain blood cancers.
- Arsenic is used to preserve wood. Some arsenic compounds have been linked to cancer of the lung, skin, liver, and bladder.
- Benzene is used to manufacture other chemicals. It can cause cancer, particularly leukemia, in humans.
- Cadmium is a metal used to make batteries. Cadmium and cadmium compounds can cause lung cancer and have been associated with kidney and prostate cancer.
- Chromium VI is used to make alloy metals, paint and dyes. Chromium VI compounds cause lung cancer and have been associated with cancer of the nose and nasal sinuses.
- Formaldehyde is used to make other chemicals and resins. It is also used as a preservative. Formaldehyde causes leukemia and cancer in respiratory tissues.
- Polonium-210 is a radioactive element that has been shown to cause cancer in animals.

- Tar is not one single chemical, instead it describes several chemicals that in tobacco smoke. It also leaves a sticky, brown residue on your lungs, teeth and fingernails.

Secondhand smoke increases the risk of coronary heart disease by 30%. This effect is larger than one would expect on the basis of the risks associated with active smoking and the relative doses of tobacco smoke delivered to smokers and nonsmokers. The effects of even brief (minutes to hours) passive smoking are often nearly as large (averaging 80% to 90%) as chronic active smoking. The effects of secondhand smoke are substantial and rapid, explaining the relatively large risks that have been reported in epidemiological studies.

Respectfully submitted by,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John Bailey". The signature is stylized and cursive.

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